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Thursday **29 March 2012** | Issue 25

Haliburton County's Independent Newspaper

Feds shine on Northern Lights with 98K grant

By Stephen Patrick

Federal Conservative MP Barry Devolin has announced a grant of almost \$100,000 from its Skills Link program to the Haliburton Branch of Northern Lights Canada. The monies will be used to fund a 16-week program for 10 young adults to help them successfully enter the labour force.

Lindsay Ketner, Northern Lights Vocational Rehab Services team leader, told *The Highlander* that the 10 successful applicants, aged 19 to 27, would start out augmenting their employable skills in a classroom environment for the first six weeks before spending the remaining 10 weeks working for a local employer, with the program picking up the tab.

"We're very excited about this program," said Ketner. "We had many more applicants than we had places for, and we're looking forward to working with this great group of people. They come to us with a variety of skills already – some administrative, some in construction and hospitality, like cooking, for example. They've all had some difficulty in the past connecting to the labour force, so we'll be looking at each individual's skills, interests, and past work experience. We also provide a 'life skills' component in the classroom part of the program. This program is specifically targeted at young people who are not currently employed, or collecting EI [Employment Insurance] benefits.

"Our local employers, as usual, have been very co-operative and we hope that many of the young people will be able to continue to work for them after the 16 weeks."

In a press release, Devolin commented that, "Our government is creating opportunities for youth to succeed through support for initiatives like Skills Link, from the human resources and skills development department. Today's youth are tomorrow's workforce, so by investing in them we are helping contribute to Canada's long-term growth, competitiveness, and overall prosperity."

The Skills Link program is part of the government's Youth Employment Strategy (YES), which has annual funding of more than \$300 million.

Northern Lights Canada was founded in Minden in 1985 by Val Loughheed, and now employs over 220 employment and rehabilitation specialists in 19 locations across Canada.



Mickayla O'Neil crosses the Spring Splash puddle at Sir Sam's on Saturday, March 24. Photo by Terrance Gavan.

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Warm weather allowed an early start to construction at RPM, formerly Roberts Marina, on County Road 21 in Haliburton. Photo by Walt Griffin.

Early start to spring construction

By Stephen Patrick

This remarkable early spring, which has broken decades-old weather records across the province, has given local contractors and real estate brokers some “cautious optimism” about the summer ahead.

“If the roads departments take the half-load restrictions off sooner than normal, like in mid-April, that will certainly help us get into some construction sites earlier,” says Larry Hewitt of Hawk River Construction. “Although there is only so much work to go around in any event. So we might start earlier, but we’ll finish earlier as well. These last couple of years have seen a 25 percent drop in our snowplowing business, so the great weather is not all a good thing.”

Greg Sheffee, co-owner of Haliburton Timbr Mart, told *The Highlander*, “I’d certainly say we’re cautiously optimistic. From our perspective the weather’s good for us, and bad for the snowmobilers. But indications certainly point towards a positive summer. The earlier our customers, our builders, can get into the construction sites, the better. We’re already bringing staff back earlier, for example. And another factor that I think is important is the overall performance of the economy, and in particular the rise in the value of people’s investments. We’ve come a long way since the 2008 crash, when so many people lost so much value in their investments. And that certainly counts for something if you’re planning a major renovation, or even a brand new cottage or home.”

A number of real estate agents have recently told *The Highlander* that the

difficult winter main street retailers have experienced across the county didn’t seem to impact greatly on their sales. Century 21 Broker of Record Andrew Hodgson notes that winter residential sales were up over 160 percent from last year, even though prices have fallen about 11 percent since the peak four years ago.

“But yes, I feel some slight optimism overall,” said Hodgson. “Small steps, but in the right directions, and the economy is certainly improving. There’s still strength in the marketplace.”

Gary Burtch, president of GJ Burtch Construction, said the warm winter meant his crews were able to work outside many more hours than usual. He also said he expects a big boost in inquiries – and even some new business – over the Easter weekend.

Nathan Petrini of Petrini Construction commented, “We love that the early spring has the phones ringing more than they usually do at this time of year. It’s great to have an early indication that there is work out there. Although it is always hard to say how a season will go, we choose to look at things positively and look forward to a decent year ahead.”

Kim Emmerson of Emmerson Lumber agrees that the weather has helped a little, but not to the point where he thinks that anyone should predict a record-breaking business summer. But after a winter that has been very difficult for many local retailers and for small business in general, any increase in construction and real-estate activity is welcome news indeed.

Susan Lee, CFP

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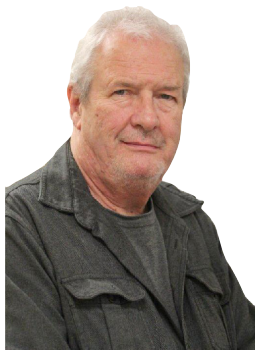


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Editorial opinion



WE'RE MOVING!
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By Stephen Patrick

Spend a penny, save a penny – or borrow a few more

Ontario Treasurer Dwight Duncan brought down his much-anticipated tough-as-nails budget on Tuesday of this week, with the stated goal of getting the province out of deficit within five years. Along with the 300 or so pages of budget detail, Duncan also issued a separate booklet, immediately dubbed the “Cut Book” by the press, outlining the grim news for almost every department of government. In pre-budget rhetoric, much was made of Duncan’s admiration for the federal Liberal government’s slash and burn budgets of the mid-nineties authored by his mentor, then Finance Minister Paul Martin.

Well, put simply, this budget does not come close to the draconian cuts of 15 years ago. The savings come almost exclusively on the backs of public servants, doctors, and teachers who face a total wage freeze, along with a re-vamping of public pension plans. Prepare for lots of folks camping out on the front lawn of Queen’s Park.

The government claims that for every extra dollar it plans to raise in user fees, it will find four dollars in savings. The budget scarcely touches education or health but takes dead aim at the Species at Risk program of the MNR. Huh, say what? Are the skinks going to be slaughtered? Will millions be saved as a result? We’ll have more on that in a later issue.

So what does the budget mean for us folks in rural Canada? Apart from the skinks and the turtles, not a whole lot. Haliburton Conservative MPP Laurie Scott told *The Highlander* on budget night that, “Really, it’s surprisingly weak, and I’m actually shocked. I really thought they were going to seriously tackle the deficit, but in fact it’s just a ‘what if’ document – what if the teachers and doctors agree to a pay freeze. We feel that the government’s still on track for a \$30 billion deficit. There are no incentives for business growth; they’re even upping energy rates for business, which will surely hamper growth. Nothing on the regulatory burden on small business, nothing on Workmen’s Comp, nothing on lifting the expensive subsidies on green energy. And over-regulations really matter: we’ve lost our gas station in Kinmount, my hometown – do you think any snowmobilers are going to come? What happens to the grocery store?”

Scott was less than forthcoming on her party’s decision to unanimously vote against the budget, but it’s pretty clear she doesn’t think the NDP is going to join them and force an election. “No one really wants one now,” she said.

For his part, former Haliburton Liberal MPP Rick Johnson told *The Highlander* that he felt overall, “It’s a very fair budget, and it will reduce the deficit. When most people are asked if they want to take a wage freeze, as we’re asking public servants to do, or lose their jobs, they’ll take a wage freeze. The doctors have made some huge gains over the last eight years. They admit that, and care has improved across the board. Should we be funding horse races or hospitals? I’ll take hospitals every time. And full-day kindergarten.”

The bottom budget line: this is a politically astute document in many ways. Public servants, teachers, and doctors are easy targets. Lowering corporate taxes doesn’t get many votes. Asking single seniors with incomes over \$100,000 to pay for their drug prescriptions isn’t going to lose anyone their seat.

But our manufacturing sector is being hollowed out at an alarming rate, and small businesses are in the fight of their lives. Will this budget help either? Only if it’s clear that the provincial debt is lowered significantly with each year. And the jury’s still out on that



By Bram Lebo

Small towns, big ideas

This week, the municipality of Dysart et al received a mid-term evaluation on its municipal cultural planning initiative, and it looks like the focus on this sector is well-placed and timely; the consultant doing the work reported that the local creative industry is growing rapidly and contributing more each year to the economy.

Creative cultural industry (aka the “creative economy”) means different things to different people. Traditionally, it meant artists of all kinds: painters, woodworkers, sculptors, photographers, and writers, to name a few. People in these professions have been moving to the Highlands for some time, attracted by its natural landscapes, solitude, and a vibrant arts community that comes with its own, dedicated population of supporters and patrons; having an arts college in Haliburton Village is also a great attractor of talent and interest, be it for a weekend or a lifetime.

More recently, the definition of creative workers has expanded to include graphic designers, copywriters, web developers, and consultants. To them you can add (though some would say it’s a bit of a stretch) entrepreneurs who develop niche business opportunities in creative ways, people like Tom Dawson and his dozen varieties of maple syrup-infused sauces [featured in the March 22 edition of *The Highlander*], and Karra Wesley of the Haliburton Language School.

There is one theme that joins all of these diverse people and allows them to make their homes in the Highlands, often far from their customers, clients, and markets: technology. Nearly everyone is using the Internet to promote, sell, and communicate — artists included, for example on *MadeinHaliburton.ca* which was featured here recently. Some in our creative economy even specialize in developing and optimizing the online sales and marketing channel. And so the creative economy grows.

What the Internet does for many people is remove the problem of distance when it comes to earning a living. Certainly, if you have a factory job in the city, there’s no avoiding having to be there every day. But more and more people find that a high speed Internet connection and mobile phone can make you just as “close” to your market as an office in downtown Toronto. Why email colleagues from the next room when you could be typing on a dock?

Suddenly, the competitive advantage of the Highlands become obvious, compelling, and to many, irresistible. The fantasy of every cottager since Confederation is now a reality: you can actually live here. All of the time. And make a living.

Joining our creative economy now are business-owners from Toronto and professionals from the suburbs. Often they start with weekends at the cottage, which slowly get stretched to include Fridays, Mondays and then Thursdays. Though they may not sell their “goods” locally, they are contributing in increasing numbers to the local economy and as volunteers. There are even new concepts of hassle-free housing being built for this new kind of mobility, as you can read about in our *Real Estate Report* this week.

Surprisingly, much of Europe, the so-called “old world”, was way ahead of us on this. In places like the Nordic countries, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Germany, high-speed Internet was made a priority way back in the 1990s. Suddenly, it became possible to conduct global business from remote towns, to think big in small places, and many hamlets across the Continent experienced something of a revival that continues to accelerate.

It makes perfect sense: the tranquility of small-town life combined with the ability to practice one’s occupation. What was once possible only for loggers and miners, then to contractors, trades, and artists, is now opening to a large segment of society.

That our municipalities are looking at how to best take advantage of this historic evolution in technology and work is a positive sign. The creative economy — difficult to define, somewhat atomized, amorphous yet vibrant, expanding and ambitious — offers tremendous opportunity to Highlanders present and future. We should look forward to the coming plan and encourage our politicians as they work to develop their long-term strategies for economic and cultural growth.

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Letters to the Editor

Side-by-sides on the Rail Trail

To the Editor:

I did a little bit of investigating about ATV “side-by-sides”, since I’d never really heard of them before. Turns out they’re kinda stupid – for trail use, anyway. Turns out they’re kinda dangerous. Turns out County council, led by ATV hollaback girl Barb Reid, is blindly heading further down the path of making the Rail Trail a secondary highway through Haliburton County’s ‘Natural Work of Art’. Through all that land which was previously owned by a bunch of people who had it taken from them when the railway was built. Here’s this: the railway is gone. Have you noticed? Can we have our land back now? No? Okay, well, just hand it over to the ATVers then, because we’re just that big-hearted.

Turns out being in a side-by-side is tantamount to driving in a car, at least that’s what it seems from what I’ve read online [excerpt found at www2.atvcourse.com]:

“Usually with a wider wheelbase than traditional ATVs, side-by-sides have car-like features, including a steering wheel, accelerator and brake pedals, seats equipped with seatbelts, and a passenger seat that is to the right of the operator seat. Some side-by-sides can accommodate up to three passengers plus an operator, and most have the ability to carry quite a bit of cargo. Most side-by-sides are either fully enclosed, or have safety bars above the occupants’ heads to help protect them in the case that the ATV rolls or

flips.”

So, um, why bother? These things appear to be almost as big as my car. If I slap on a helmet and roll down my windows, can I zoom up and down the trail in my Toyota? Oh, wait... come to think of it... why would I want to, anyway? I can do that any weekend when I drive to work in Toronto on the 401. And the beauty of that is I don’t have to deal with any of those infernal walkers or cyclists. And don’t even get me started on the horseback riders...

I’ve been thumbing through the recently-published booklet from the County’s tourism department put out by Parker Pad & Printing Ltd. Have you seen it? It’s pretty slick. It’s got beautiful photos, lots of great information, and, best of all, a fantastic picture of our esteemed warden in a leather jacket! True story. What’s most intriguing, however, is the picture on the back. We’ve all got a copy, right? Everyone flip to the back cover. See that picture? Isn’t it brilliant? It’s a beautiful shot of one of the county’s stunning forests, replete with dappled woodland sunlight, old-growth trees, gorgeous greenery and... a string of ATVers plowing through it all, fully geared up for maximum riding enjoyment – that is to say, fully helmeted, lights blazing, and engines roaring. Appreciating the beauty of nature, y’know? Just out of camera shot are all the woodland creatures, scittering madly away for cover. “What the ?!?” they’re saying in critter talk. “This is not my beautiful home! This is not my beautiful life! What have I done?” (loathe as I am to – sort

of – quote the Talking Heads).

You go down this path, councilors, and there’s no going back. The eco-tourism boat is pulling out of the harbour, and you’re still waiting in the line-up to buy fridge magnets in the gift shop. I think the time is soon coming when you might regret missing said boat. There’s a time to apply some forward-thinking, and that time is fast running out. A missed opportunity is a terrible thing to live with. Thank you to Mr. Fearrey for trying to head off the plea for a May 1 ATV engagement strategy. We’ve all heard the propaganda put out by the HATVA: about the untold gazillions in tourism money they provide to the county. Show me the figures. I don’t buy it. Those of us on the other side have done a little checking around ourselves. Turns out not every business owner is as enamoured by this group as we have been led to believe. Methinks this self-serving lot doth protest too much.

Let’s keep the Highlands beautiful, why not? First step: forego the urge to develop an ATV ‘interstate’, and keep the trail a trail. A natural work of art, as it were.

I’m sure every ATV-lover from here to the moon now wants to ‘have a word’. Oh, well. In the words of the mighty Wu-Tang (cleaned up considerably for public consumption), “Bring the ruckus.”

I’m steeled.

Melanie Sedgwick
Gelert

Great trails in Haliburton County

Dear Editor:

As a long-time snowmobiler I recognize the need for snow to make great trails. From January to mid-February, there wasn’t much snow but there was lots of rain. Haliburton trails on a whole are bush trails. Try accessing them in the summer and you will understand the need for lots of snow and cold weather.

Only three weeks of the winter were good for snowmobiling, the rest were not. I challenge anyone to find better trails anywhere in Ontario.

Thank you Mother Nature and groomer drivers.

Myrlene Foster
Algonquin Highlands

Snowboarder thanks community for support

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank the community for their support of my dream, which I will do my best to turn into a reality.

I would like to thank my employer Sir Sam’s Ski and Bike, my friends, family, and my mom for believing in me. I know I have a God-given ability, and I am so thankful for that.

I would like to thank Olympic gold medalist Jasey Jay Anderson for inspiring me. I learned to ride by watching him race at the 2010 winter Olympics.

Once again, thanks for all the support, and for allowing me to follow my dream.

Greg Foster,
Haliburton

Letters continue on page 6

Tell us
your Opinion

Send your letters
to the editor to letters@haliburtonhighlander.ca

The Outsider — Itching for spring

OK, I win. I’m first, the quickest, the all-time leader, faster than anyone else.

At what? At getting bitten by a bloody mosquito, that’s what.

Surely it’s a record: March 22 was the date, with snow still lying in shaded parts of my garden. That’s when the dastardly beast struck. I was lounging on the deck, suitably fizzy Canadian beer in hand, after a hard day poking at the keyboard. The evening sun was gloriously warm. The moment could not have been sweeter. And then BAM, or rather bzzzz bzzzz, followed by a silence.

It can’t be, I thought to myself and took another swig. Then, a flinch, a scratch and... “Would you believe it, I’ve been bitten by a mozzzy,” I announced to my lovely wife.

“Quick, grab Little Z and run for cover!” she yelled, diving for the 50-gallon drum of Deet that we keep on hand now that we live in the country.

Mosquitoes in March. What is going on in the world? Even I, a relative newcomer to rural Canada, know that this is unusual, and rather annoying.

Our property has been invaded by creatures with less of a nuisance rating, too. We have woodcocks displaying in the meadow and wood ducks dabbling in the alder infested wetland at the bottom of the garden. The peepers are peeping and the robins are here early too. As for the

pelicans, they were a surprise!

And then there was the visit from the dam buster. Not a daring pilot of World War II fame, but an intrepid fellow who drives around the county busting the dams of our resident beaver population.

“Early this year,” he snarled as he hauled out all manner of sticks and pondweed from the culvert at the end of our road. “Don’t normally get this for another month. Dam beavers (dam beavers, geddit!) are keeping me busy. I’m on ten a day at the moment.”

Ten what? I started to ask then thought better of it. Did this chap eat the beavers whose dams he busted? Did he drink to console his work-related rodent wrestling aches? I was left to muse his statement as the dam buster climbed back into his truck and roared off to find another buck-toothed blighter to bother.

And then it hit me. The reason for all of this early animal activity, from bugs to beavers, was the weather. The balmy temperatures of the last week or so have kick-started nature in a big way. And, while we have all enjoyed what is essentially July in March (a great trade-off because you can get into the village without getting stuck in a traffic jam), all of these summertime shenanigans could be a touch premature.

What if the weather turns back? What if we get March

in April, May or June? For you and me that means changing out of the shorts and flip flops back into scarves and boots, but for the critters it could be disastrous. Early arrivals such as the wood ducks could find their food sources frozen over again. The mating woodcocks could lose their new brood. Even the beavers, hardy souls that they are, might suffer if we get the second freeze or snow as so many of you local folks predict.

Worst of all, the insects could suffer. That early hatch of mosquitoes might be decimated by a cold snap; frozen before they can drink their fill of my sweet tasting English blood; killed before they have a chance to breed.

Hmm. I’ve enjoyed the great weather we’ve been having and I’d hate to see the woodcocks lose their chicks, but the thought of those buzzing harbingers of summer evening doom being wiped out by a return of real weather... I could go for that.

Just so long as you all give me the credit I believe due for being the first, the fastest, the best at getting bitten by a mosquito this year.



By Will Jones

Letters continued

HSSC Halliburton Safety Supply Company 705-455-3590 hssc@xplornet.ca	WHIMIS TRAINING FORK LIFT CERTIFICATION PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FALL ARREST EQUIPMENT PURCHASING SERVICES

We need more cameras

Dear Editor:

Reading Victoria Ward's article on cameras and such made me wonder if she is oblivious to the world we live in. She thinks stoplight cameras harass tired drivers who just want to get home. Unfortunately, being tired and just wanting to get home doesn't grant a driver the right to run a red light and risk killing or maiming some other innocent pedestrian or driver.

In a perfect world, we wouldn't need cameras watching our every move. Unfortunately, we live in a world where vandalism, stealing, rioting, blowing things up, murder,

bullying, kidnapping, and gang activity are becoming the norm. No law-abiding citizen has anything to fear from having their picture taken. Personally, I think we need more cameras to keep tabs on the all-too-many people who can't seem to find it in themselves to behave. As for [Google] Street View, I find it an invaluable tool to check out places I have to go to for landmarks and parking.

Keith Stata
Kinmount

A job fit for Superwoman

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to the Minden Hills council (alias: Vision Team) for hiring, with the aid of the \$21,000 headhunter, a new clerk/economic development officer (EDO) who comes well-qualified for the clerk job, but with no experience as the EDO, which was one of the prerequisites in the posting.

A qualified local candidate was refused the job due to lack of economic development experience. It appears that the Vision Team will not hire locally for these positions. This could have saved the \$21,000 headhunter fee. However, according to the Reeve, the new lady will learn on the job! Now the Vision Team sees fit to add the job of chief administrative officer (CAO) to her other two jobs when that position becomes available with the retirement of the present CAO at the end of this year. I never saw a posting for this position, which I understood was the proper procedure of the township policy. There was an ad in the local paper for the clerk/EDO position.

Not only will the new lady hold the three full-time positions of clerk/EDO/CAO by next year, she will need time off from

her Minden Hills responsibilities to serve as president of the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario. Then, if she relocates to the municipality, she will need time to move! In the meantime, she will have a two-hour drive from her Peterborough home every day. Whew! I'm tired just writing about it! What a Superwoman!

The assigning of the position of CAO to the clerk's position shows disrespect to the responsibilities of both job descriptions. The previous, excellent clerk left due to the excessive workload demanded of her, resulting in many ten-hour work days. Our CAO is responsible for the administrative management of our local government, manages daily operations, and reports directly to all members of council – definitely a full-time position! I am glad this new lady is well qualified in municipal work, but really, three full-time positions for one person! Not doable, even for Superwoman!

Lois Rigney
Minden Hills

Volunteers are needed

Dear Editor:

You are quite right about the important part that volunteers play in our community (your editorial in the March 15 edition of *The Highlander*).

A few months ago, Haliburton in Transition set about compiling a comprehensive list of not-for-profit organizations in the county and the result is proving little short of amazing. So far we have almost 300 entries. And as we check for accuracy, we hear about even more groups that are active, but not very well known.

All this new information means our project will take rather longer than we imagined, but we think the end result will be worthwhile. The list will include a brief description of activities and contact information. We aim to share the list with everybody and to arrange for it to be kept up-to-date.

Reg Holloway

A simple act of kindness

Dear Editor:

On the weekend of March 10, our nine-year-old daughter went to her grandmother's in Haliburton for March Break. When in town, she dropped and lost her change purse in the Foodland parking lot. It contained her bank card and a compilation of savings and gifts of money. Since the child was adamant that she didn't take her wallet out of the car, we figured this must be found among her belongings. It was not found until Gramma called Foodland to discover that an honest sole with great integrity turned this into the Foodland cashier. A lovely Foodland associate called the bank and cancelled the bank card. Humanity and kindness are alive and well in Haliburton. Many great thanks to the anonymous person who turned in this wallet, and also for the assistance of Foodland for holding this until returned.

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Dysart et al

Tim Hortons for Haliburton

Popular chain to be located at property on Cty Rd. 21

By Will Jones

Plans to bring Tim Hortons to Haliburton Village took a step forward when, at the Monday, March 26 Dysart et al Council meeting, a resolution to amend a zoning by-law to allow the construction of a drive-through restaurant was passed. The site, located adjacent to Nimigon Lane on County Road 21, is situated across from residential properties. Home owners have expressed concerns with regards to traffic, the 24-hour operation of the restaurant, damage from blasting, garbage, and lowered property values; however, the proposal complies with the County’s Official Plan and the development company, TDL Group, has begun discussions with neighbours to try to address their concerns. Director of Planning, Pat Martin, said: “The developer has already completed storm water management and traffic

studies, which are now being reviewed. The site of the entrance has been approved by the county. There will be a public meeting on May 7 at which any further concerns can be voiced.” TDL representative Leo Palozzi said: “The project is going through a full review to make sure it complies with all requirements. And, we will address all concerns such as lighting, 24-hour operation and the likes with the neighbours. “We have already considered some of these points, locating parking to the rear of the building and including a planted screen to mitigate noise and light issues. “With regards to the 24-hour operation, yes, Tim Hortons does often open for 24 hours a day. However, the hours of operation are down to the individual operator and as such, he or she can decide just when they open depending upon the season or other variables.” Martin concluded by saying that she recommended that the proposal move forward to the public meeting and approval of building permits subject to the developer meeting the concerns of neighbours.

Municipality told to utilize cultural assets

By Will Jones

Draft of cultural plan to be presented at July 3 meeting

“We’re a little past half way in the study and at a good point to pause and show what we’ve achieved so far,” said Greg Baeker, director of Millier Dickinson Blais and consultant in charge of Dysart et al’s Municipal Cultural Plan. Speaking at the regular Dysart Council meeting, Baeker outlined what has been done to date and presented a report for council’s comment and feedback. The report will then be revised and developed into a draft plan, which will be brought before council again and then on to public consultation in a meeting slated for July 3. Baeker began by outlining the municipality’s relatively high number of cultural work opportunities. “While Ontario’s percentage of creative cultural occupations grew to 2.1 per cent between 2001 and 2006, Dysart et al’s grew to 5.1 percent,” he said. “And, from 2007 to 2011, creative cultural industries in the area have increased by 14.8 percent. For a county of this size the opportunities for creatives are extraordinary.” However, Baeker cautioned that a Municipal Cultural Plan would be useless without the buy-in of everyone – council, local businesses, residents, and other stakeholders. He acknowledged that in order to implement such planning, stronger coordination between all parties must be formed. Culture also needs to be looked at as a “value-added commodity” to other municipal business and economic plans.

“There have been many references to culture within past economic development plans of this municipality and others,” he said, “but the issue is how committed is the municipality to take action, utilize and maximize its cultural assets?” Baeker noted that the involvement of the community to date has been exceptional. He highlighted the number of responses to the survey – more than 170 – and called it remarkable. “This shows the high level of interest in the community.” He was also impressed by the clarity and honesty of those attending the visioning session. “We had a great day and out of it came both positives and negatives,” said Baeker. “We learned that the county has an extraordinary amount of local artists and other cultural attractions, and that volunteerism is extremely high. However, social issues such as poverty and unemployment are a factor we have to deal with, as is the need to put greater emphasis on heritage.” Reeve Murray Fearrey commented, stating: “You’ve captured some things that we already knew and some that we didn’t: this is a great foundation for the future. We look forward to the next steps in the process. “When you compile the final report will it suggest ways in which we can achieve our goals?” Baeker explained that this report is a framework from which implementation plans will grow with the support of the community and council. Deputy Bill Davis added a word of caution: “We can put the plan together, but we may have to tread water for a while due to the poor economic climate.” Baeker agreed, but assured council that the cultural plan will include many recommendations that will be affordable, as well as those that will require considerable financial support.

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by Ian Johnson

When quality is your #1 priority.

Baseball diamond plans revealed

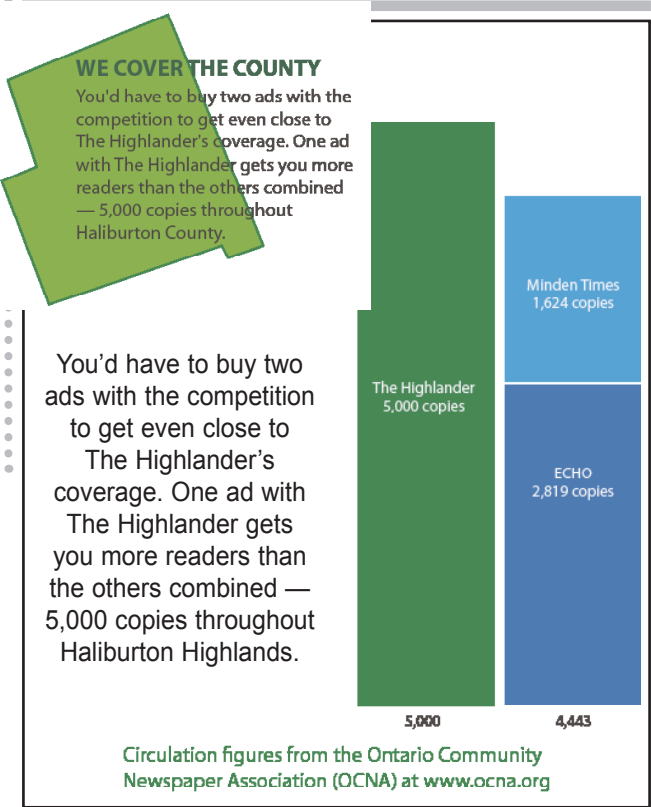
By Will Jones

Initial suggestions made about turning Haliburton’s baseball diamonds into a car park were met with strong words and letters when muted in December. However, Dysart et al council has pushed forward with the idea and now has an artist’s impression of how it sees the recreational and parking improvements panning out. Discussion at the Monday, March 26 council meeting was focused on the proposal, with Director of Public Works, Brian Nicholson, taking councilors and members of the public through the sketch supplied by architect, Basterfield & Associates. Nicholson explained that the proposal provides parking for 133 cars, almost doubling the present capacity around the arena. “But it also includes lots of green space, a mini soccer field and great green landscaping around the buildings,” said Nicholson.

Murray Fearrey
Haliburton County

“While I’m glad to see there are recreational aspects to the proposal, the next step must be to find a new home for the diamond.”

He also pointed out the two covered shelters, for use by the public and an external lighting scheme to provide a safe, well-lit walk from the car park to the arena. “The proposal lends itself to all kinds of opportunity and the fit and finish would tie in well with the development of the downtown core,” he continued. However, Reeve Murray Fearrey stressed that before anything else, the first step is to find an alternative location for the baseball diamond. “The proposal is a fantastic start and it was the right thing to do to get something on paper for us all to consider. However, while I’m glad to see there are recreational aspects to the proposal, the next step must be to find a new home for the diamond,” said Fearrey. Nicholson stated that he had already begun looking for new locations for a baseball field, using digital mapping technology to plot a diamond on existing council properties. Council resolved to support the vision of the proposed recreational and parking improvements, and to explore a suitable alternative location for baseball to be played.



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Highlander arts

Seasons of joy and sorrow

Laura Trach faces life's challenges in exhibit

By Stephen Patrick

While Highlands artist Laura Trach was trying to determine which pieces to choose for her new show at the Rails End, family and friends were suddenly struck by cancer. First her mother, now in treatment, then her uncle, taken at 44, and within three months four others succumbed.

"These events forced me to think of seasons, beginnings, birth, life, love, decayed and death, which are all a part of our world. And that lead me to choose pieces that illustrated our relationship to the forests around us."

Trach's fascination with fibre started at 16 when she went to work in a fabric store in her native London. She then went on to study fashion design at Fanshawe College and later fibre arts at Fleming in Haliburton. She now teaches three courses in fibre arts at Fleming. Her current exhibition at the Rails End features a number of pieces of wall art, some spectacular



Autumn Dawn, one of Laura Trach's pieces.
Photo submitted by Laura Trach

hanging trees, and a startling bustier from her early days at Fanshawe made out of tanned fish skin.

Trach told *The Highlander*, "I think it's because trees play such a vital role in our environment that I'm especially drawn to them. They give me a sense of continuity and a sense of

life and permanence. To me they're like libraries – they store all the information the planet needs to survive. My studio looks out on an apple tree, and I love the changes the seasons make each year: first the blossoms, then the bees, which make the whole tree hum! And in the fall the fruit is so heavy the branches bend to the ground."

Trach primarily employs a combination of fibre and thread techniques.

"Needle felting is a dry felting method that uses barbed needles to meld the fibres together. Thread painting is a sewing machine technique where the feed dogs allow me to move the material freely. This allows me to know exactly where my colours are going; so essentially I'm painting, in a way like oil painting, building up the fibres in layers. I like to say that I paint with my fibres and sketch with my thread."

Another remarkable piece in the exhibit is a soft sculpture tree, where the artist has braided a variety of fabrics around a wire support to make a trunk and branches stitched over with hand-painted leaves.

"A fairy placed in the tree reminds us to take care of the world we've been given," said Trach.

These fine, intricate and challenging works are on exhibit at the Rails End until April 21.



By Victoria Ward

State of the Arts The theatre of truthiness

Mike Daisey, a Brooklyn-based monologist (or what I like to call playwright because alone or not it's still theatre) is a writer who has found himself at an interesting nexus of myth, storytelling, and the truth. His show, *The Agony and the Ecstasy*

of Steve Jobs, describes a trip he

took to visit the Foxconn factory in China; it is the factory that makes Apple products. The show details heartbreaking stories that were told to him by many employees. Their stories shook at the very foundation of our outsourcing culture: underpaid workers getting sick from toxins and fired because of it, suicides, and child labour.

His show and subsequent interviews, blogs, and podcasts of the show made him a huge Internet sensation, courted by the hippest press and coolest commentators. *The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs*, however, is not entirely true. Daisey fabricated a lot of the stories in his monologue to impart emotional responses from his audiences, which it did. The media has since vilified him for his lack of journalistic integrity.

Except that Mr. Daisey is not a journalist. He is a writer and artist. Writers make stuff up. That's their job. Journalists try not to, that's their job. If an artist plays with these mediums and blurs lines, then they will have to pay the consequences. They know this. Daisey hasn't necessarily apologized or even admitted that he did anything wrong. In fact, his interviews with journalists raking him over the coals are almost as interesting as the original podcast.

Daisey is not the first writer to mislead an audience. Remember the Oprah smack down with writer James Frey, who admitted to falsifying his memoir of drug addiction? Or going back further, what about Orson Welles, broadcast of *War of the Worlds*? That broadcast in the thirties caused nation-wide panic. And now we look back at it and think, 'Wasn't that quaint, the way all those poor people thought the world had been invaded by Martians?'

There is a strong tradition in modern media that supports verisimilitude. It could be because of the mediums themselves; radio, television, and the Internet convey a perceived idea of reality and everyone watching them knows this, much like collective belief? Or is it that the written word, both told and read, is seen as truth and those

who mess with this distinction should tread carefully? Could it also be that the Internet has created so many sources of truth that in fact there is no one truth anymore thus allowing for fabricated stories to have a larger reach than ever before?

I believe Mike Daisey's story encompasses all of the above. As an artist, I understand the need to look for subjects that strike a chord with audiences. Using Apple and its business practices overseas couldn't be more controversial or more topical. The show includes every big problem today: labour abuse, outsourcing, 21st century colonialism, climate change, corporatism, capitalism, and people's genuine love of Apple products.

But Apple and its lack of mea culpa isn't the interesting story here. What is interesting is that we have a media now that can take someone's art form and turn it into an industry overnight. What would once have been a one-man show that got some press here and there and perhaps accolades; where a small amount of people watched it live, is now a viral Internet sensation situated on platforms throughout the media universe. National programs gave the show heft and suddenly an artist has to answer to the question of truth. He is judged on the same level as a presidential candidate.

I listened to *The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs*; his writing is arch and very dramatic, not like journalism at all. It's heightened storytelling. His confidence could be seen as off-putting, however live it might have been more contained. His style is what might have gotten him into trouble; he talks about real issues and then spins tales surrounding those issues.

To some it might appear like factual accounts, but it isn't; it is theatre regardless of how it is billed. His style comes from a cultish brand of alternative theatre I am really familiar with, and it comes from a small world, one that might not be ready, if ever, for the bigger world. When I watched the 1987 filmed version of *Swimming to Cambodia* by Spalding Gray for the first time, I was absolutely willing to be carried along his dizzying, storytelling genius without worrying about the truth, because it actually didn't matter. What mattered was that it was phenomenal art.

Daisey perhaps doesn't have this advantage. Prior to the Internet and multi-platform experiences, we relied more on our wits and instincts about things. This reactionary culture we now live in is testing those failed responses that we once held very dear.

Haliburton County's Hot Reads

The following are the top 5 fiction and non-fiction titles as requested at the Haliburton County Public Library for the week of March 26 – April 1.

HCPL's TOP 5 FICTION

1. *Down the Darkest Road* by Tami Hoag
2. *11/22/63* by Stephen King
3. *Death Comes To Pemberley* by PD James
4. *The Far Side of the Sky* by Daniel Kalla
5. *A Small Hotel* by Robert Olen Butler

HCPL's TOP 5 NON-FICTION

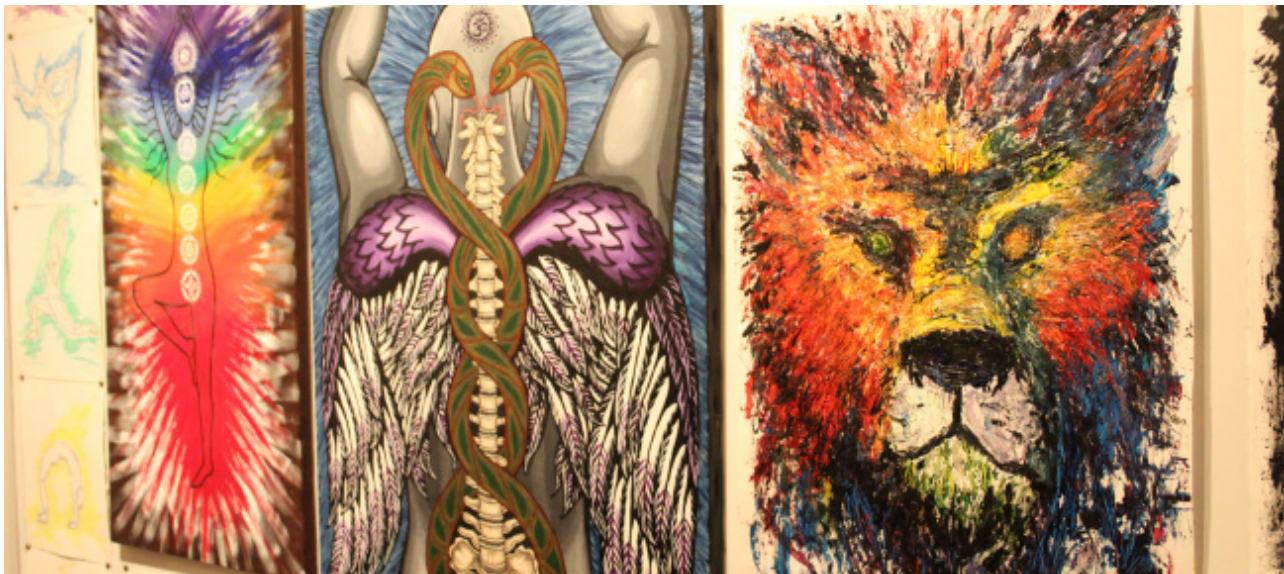
1. *Something Fierce* by Carmen Aguirre
2. *The Wealthy Barber Returns* by David Chilton
3. *Steve Jobs* by Walter Isaacson
4. *Under An Afghan Sky* by Mellissa Fung
5. *From This Moment On* by Shania Twain

With the *The Hunger Games* now in theatres, you might be interested in hearing about another YA dystopian novel to keep in mind once *The Hunger Games* popularity dies down. *Blood Red Road* by Canadian author Moira Young follows Saba, a teenage girl growing up in a post-apocalyptic desert. When her twin brother is kidnapped by the soldiers of a malevolent king, she sets off to rescue him, eventually being kidnapped herself, and forced to be a cage fighter in a barbaric city of sin. This novel is being touted as the next *The Hunger Games* – it is already being made into a movie by director Ridley Scott. If you like *The Hunger Games*, this is a must-read. Other titles you might want to try include: *Matched* by Ally Condie, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, *Divergent* by Veronica Roth and *Birthmarked* by Caragh M. O'Brien. They are all available at your library.

Library News

Get ready for the Easter bunny with kids programming at the Haliburton County Public Library. Join us for crafts, stories and other fun activities on Saturday, April 7 at 10:30 am in the Minden branch and 1:30pm in the Dysart branch.

County news



A variety of Fleming College's students' art on display at the Rails End Gallery. Photo by Terrance Gavan.

Process 29: exotic and eclectic

Visual and Creative Arts Diploma Class Exhibition
Rails End Gallery – To March 31

By Terrance Gavan

A yearly showstopper at the Rails End Gallery in Haliburton likes to stretch the binding on a book we'll call Art 101. Students in Fleming College's Visual and Creative Arts Diploma (VCAD) program get to strut their wares annually at a quaint and quintessentially understated train station known as the Rails End Gallery in Head Lake Park.

Process 29, the show currently stirring that rumpled interior of everyone's favourite gallery, is all about soul, and the frank churn of young artists at work. This exhibition is vast of breadth, and as usual, breathtakingly devoid of pretense. This is the fourth annual Rails End VCAD exhibition and as the gallery's website states, "By intention, no finished work is shown."

Call it Van Gogh with the ear still extant, and remember that even finished works are smoldered by time. This year's show is fundamentally and frankly eclectic in its style, medium, and magnitude. It is undisguised and deliciously bereft of order. Van Gogh just before the neurons truly exploded. All, by the way, good.

These shows are a favourite of the community and have been for years. The reasons for this are as myriad as the trace of the undulating line from the Rails End courtyard with a

series of plastic human forms, to the shivering walls of the gallery where mosaic melds with charcoal and pastels to fill the space with noise.

One of the pieces makes a strong statement. Sculpted fists lined up on a bench with hues that trace a pale Irish fist to an ebon hand clenched and ready, we assume, to repel invaders. The work is a stark, simple statement about racism. The language is as provocative as these times. The work appeals to my own inner anger about how people view hues as simple roadmaps for hate and hate speak.

For the silent fists are labeled with the language of denigration and the dross of indifference to basic human values.

But that was not the only piece I saw that invited such impact and introspection. There are broken mirror mosaics that a photographer investigated via flash and no flash imaging. And I became immediately aware that broken mirrors sometimes infringe too intimately upon the genteel psyche.

There is too much here to do the Rails End VCAD exhibit justice.

So we advise a visit there between now and March 31. Preserve some time and peruse at leisure. And take with a grain of salt that precursor to the show that says that these are artists in training. The work may be unfinished but that does not tarnish the brilliance of the exhibition.

Sunny Rock becomes first tourism ambassador

By Terrance Gavan

According to Barry Martin, open-ended questions from curious tourists are invitations to every business owner and tourism stakeholder in the Haliburton Highlands to provide helpful information on events, interesting sites, landmarks, eateries, and happenings in and around the Haliburton Highlands.

But where does all of this information come from?

Enter Haliburton County's Tourism Ambassador Program, an ambitious undertaking that Martin, in conjunction with the County of Haliburton, rolled out on Monday, March 26 in the council chambers.

The ambassador template is pretty simple: give stakeholders and business owners a toolkit. The idea is to provide every tourism ambassador with enough information and training to create a desirable environment here in the Highlands. Give them enough information, says Martin, and they might end up spending the night after a visit to the ski hill or the wolf reserve.

Martin and Haliburton County's Tourism coordinator, Maria Micallef, gave the inaugural ambassador seminar on Monday to staff members of the county, and to the Highlands' first official tourism ambassador, Sally Moore, owner of Sunny Rock Bed and Breakfast.

The ambassadorial clinic takes about half an hour to complete and is provided by the county at no charge.

Rule number one remains sacrosanct: we do not live in Haliburton, Minden, or Wilberforce. We reside and work in the Haliburton Highlands.

Moore definitely gets it. And she also came away with a nifty sign – also free – that will be placed in a prominent window at her business.

"I'm very proud to be one of Haliburton Highlands' first tourism ambassadors," said Moore after the short seminar wrapped up. "I helped bring together a group of stakeholders – about 140 people – two years ago for the Haliburton Highlands tourism town hall, and as a result of that town hall we learned that we could apply for a grant through the Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC). That money has allowed us to bring this project to life. Barrie Martin has been contracted to fulfill the program and he's doing a dynamite job."

Martin says that he and Micallef have received inquiries and requests from approximately 50 businesses and stakeholders regarding the Tourism Ambassador program.

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New clerk ready for a challenge

By Mark Arike

After a 10-year career with the City of Peterborough, Nancy Wright-Laking is preparing for her new position with the Township of Minden Hills.

"I'm very interested in change and a new challenge," said Wright-Laking, who will be joining the township on April 16 as the clerk/economic development officer. She will also assume the position of CAO upon Gerry Morrison's retirement at the end of the year.

Wright-Laking comes from the City of Peterborough, where she has spent the last decade as the clerk. But in her careers leading up to that job, she has worked in smaller communities, including the former township of Cardiff (prior to amalgamation) here in the Highlands.

"I had a family cottage with my husband on Paudash Lake. We moved there and that's when I started my municipal career," said Wright-Laking.

She lived on that lake for 10 years and in that time also held senior management roles in the municipalities of Fenelon, Burleigh, and Anstruther. She then became a municipal advisor for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in Kingston.

Wright-Laking returned to the municipal sector in 2002 when she joined the City of Peterborough as city clerk. She reflects on several highlights from her career, including the changes she brought about to the voting system.

"When I got there, we probably had 80 voting stations throughout the city for an electorate of about 52,000 voters. All of the ballots would come back to City Hall at the end of voting day and would be inserted into central voting machines. It took a long time to process the ballots and you needed a lot of staff to cover all of the voting stations."

So in 2006, she introduced the city to internet voting and "vote anywhere" technology.

"At the end of voting day, it took very little time to get your results because it was

already tabulated in the voting machines or by the use of Internet voting. We were the first municipality in Canada that used 'vote anywhere' technology."

During her career in Peterborough, Wright-Laking served as the chair of the United Way's campaign for city employees and was the captain of the city's dragon boat team for five years.

Wright-Laking was first approached about the position in Minden Hills by a recruitment firm hired by the township. She was excited about the opportunity and the possibility of returning to a familiar place.

"I absolutely love the Haliburton area," she said. "I had a cottage there for many years, and so I thought that this was an opportunity I needed to look into."

She was impressed by the current council and their enthusiasm.

"I'm really excited about the opportunity and one of the major reasons is that I think that there's a council that has a vision and wants to see things happen. The council has been very supportive of me, as well as the staff. I think that there's a great group there and I'm going to be very pleased to be a part of it."

When asked if she's concerned about the three job titles that come with her new position, Wright-Laking doesn't appear to be too intimidated.

"It's not an uncommon thing in smaller municipalities for there to be a CAO/clerk. I'm not the least bit afraid of it," she said.

She said she will most likely help the township shape the economic development officer part of the job.

"I anticipate we will be looking at what our vision is and where we want to see the municipality go, and then look at the contacts that I have elsewhere to see what else we can make happen. Minden Hills definitely offers an awful lot to many, so I think it will be a really interesting and exciting part of the job."

Minden Hills Reeve Barb Reid is confident in Wright-Laking's abilities.

"She's been a municipal clerk in a very big jurisdiction for 10 years, so she knows the clerk job," said Reid, adding that Wright-Laking is "a real innovator" who is "very well connected."

"When you added it all up, she's a real find for Minden Hills."

Wright-Laking currently lives on Buckhorn Lake in Ennismore, but because of her newfound employment, will most likely sell that property and relocate to Minden Hills.

In addition to her new job, she will become the president of the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario in June.

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Haliburton Highlands Real Estate Report



Buyers have more choices than ever before, from rustic, traditional cottages to second homes with all the modern conveniences. Photos courtesy of Trophy Property Corp.

Season off to a strong start

Record warm temperatures have brought an early spring to the Highlands, with most lakes likely to open by the end of March — a full month ahead of schedule. And it's not just the robins building their nests unusually early in the season; cottagers have been rustling in the woods preparing for their return, ready to take advantage of clear roads into their properties.

"We're looking forward to spending Easter weekend at the cottage and being able to drive right in," says Jane Ballantine, a cottager on Drag Lake. Most winters, a steep hill leading into their property forced the Ballantines to park a small hike away, making visits inconvenient. "The warm weather means that we can start spring clean-up earlier, and maybe even get the boat in the water!"

The Ballantines aren't the only ones with that idea; local marinas have been getting calls from boaters interested in upgrading or wanting their boats delivered sooner; dock sales are picking up.

Potential cottage buyers are also getting a jump on the season. "Warm weather gives people a chance to see the landscape and shoreline," says Anthony vanLieshout of Royal LePage. "There's definitely been more activity in the months of February and March."

The action is due to a number of factors: banks are offering record-low mortgage rates; the financial crisis of 2008 made many hesitate to buy a second home and prices have drifted lower — about 5-10% for waterfront cottages from 2011 — leading to better deals, particularly for higher-end cottages. In the context of a market that has risen substantially in the last 15 years, now may in fact be a good buying opportunity.

Everyone in the GTA, it seems, wants to trade their big house for an apartment and a cottage. The boomers are coming and, according to vanLieshout, they get more for their money in Haliburton County than they would in Muskoka. "Five hundred thousand dollars here would buy you a very nice cottage on a big lake."

Andrew Hodgson of Century 21 also sees a lot of

activity. "The winter residential market is as strong as we have seen the last few years," particularly in non-waterfront properties, which saw sales increase from 17 to 45 in his region year-over-year. Hodgson cites the combination of lifestyle amenities, healthcare access, and strong community spirit for drawing new people to the Highlands. The best deals this year for potential buyers may be in waterfront building lots, which dropped substantially in price over the last couple of years — 36% from 2010 according to Hodgson.

A final factor driving demand, according to realtor Joe Sebesta, is immigration. New Canadians are warming up to the idea of cottages and coming into the area; entrepreneurial immigrants are moving to the Highlands permanently and setting up businesses, bringing welcome energy, diversity, and new products and services to the community.

Healthcare is a priority for many people, particularly seniors, and local hospital CEO Paul Rosebush is proud of the services available to residents and visitors: "One of the great things about living in Haliburton County or visiting the area is the excellent access that all people have to high-quality health care services. We have two strategically located 24/7 Emergency Rooms with modern equipment and well-trained staff. Wait times in our

ERs are among the best in the province and our annual satisfaction surveys indicate that people are very pleased with the care they receive."

Only three hours from Toronto, the Highlands is considered by many to be an undiscovered gem. Van Lieshout's clients tell him they like the greater variety of lakes, landscape, and people, and that "the lack of commercialization distinguishes [the region] from Muskoka, and makes for a friendlier community."

With approximately one million baby boomers nearing retirement in the GTA, and perhaps another million people who would gladly trade the rat race for the Highlands lifestyle, it's likely that property in the Highlands will continue to be a good investment.

Warm weather gives people a chance to see the landscape and shoreline

Top Considerations when Buying in Cottage Country

Shoreline: At this time of year, water levels are generally their highest, but water levels can fluctuate, so make sure you know where the high and low marks are and if changes will impact boating, swimming, and other activities. Also find out if you have a sand, rock or mud bottom (if that matters to you).

Inspection: Always, always get a home inspection, either before you put in an offer or as a condition of the offer itself. Have the septic and water systems checked and make sure the structure complies with building codes.

Privacy: Now is the best time to see how close the neighbours really are, when the trees are still bare. In summer, leaves provide added privacy and dampen noise.

Access: Better weather means easier access on dirt and gravel roads. If you plan on using the cottage in the winter, find out if the roads are passable; many road associations arrange plowing in the winter.

High Speed Internet & Cell Networks: If being online is important to you, make sure you have access either through DSL or with a mobile stick. Check cell phone coverage too — with a hilly landscape, the county has some areas of poor reception. In areas with no high-speed or cell phone coverage (not many left), satellite Internet may be a solution.

Distance: It can get confusing seeing a lot of cottages in one day. Make sure you drive from your desired property back home so you know exactly how far it is. Also check how far it will be to town; some cottages are five minutes from everything, others can be up to 45 minutes from gas and groceries. It's a bit of a trade off — far away offers greater privacy and potentially more for your money, but it can be isolated.

Water: If you plan on drinking treated well or lake water, it's a good idea to have it tested for safety.

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Haliburton Highlands

Real Estate Report



Discovering year-round quality of

What are people looking for in the Highlands? In addition to the traditional desire for good waterfront, more buyers are looking for low-maintenance, luxury properties that offer the conveniences of home, year-round. But every buyer is different; what's important to one might not matter to others. *The Highlander* spoke to local real estate agents to find out what their clients are looking for.

Meet me on the dock

Perhaps the most important factor for those who plan to work from their cottage is the availability of high-speed Internet. Thanks to the efforts of local politicians and residents, high-speed is now a reality in many parts of the Highlands with the goal of near-complete coverage likely to be reached in the next couple of years. No more fiddling with gruellingly slow dial-up connections; speeds can now be as fast as those in the city, and where DSL lines don't yet reach, an increasing number of cell towers allow mobile internet sticks to fill in the gaps.

The impact on cottaging has been profound. Instead of rushing back to the city on Sunday nights, many people are working from the cottage nearly full-time in the summer — or all year — going to the office only for meetings. Andrew Hodgson of Century 21 says of the Internet effect, "they often start spending more and more time here... knowing they can practice their consulting business, or any business, in the Highlands."

Working late on a project doesn't seem such a problem when you can cut out for an hour of waterskiing before dinner.

This influx of mobile workers and entrepreneurs has created

new demand for a higher quality of housing: accommodation with all the conveniences of home, but fewer of the complications and maintenance issues that typically come with cottage ownership.

One developer targeting this mobile group is Gerry Kowalski, of Silver Beach on Lake Kashagawigamog in Haliburton. Silver Beach offers 59 homes with a variety of sizes and styles, ranging from townhouses to large, detached houses, all with top-end design and finishes and shared ownership of a beach and docking. The units feature high-efficiency heating and cooling systems, luxury kitchens and even optional elevators. Moving back and forth between Haliburton and Oakville, Markham or downtown Toronto is a seamless experience thanks to wine fridges and spa showers, except at Silver Beach there's a lake in one direction where you can boat into town for groceries, and a golf course in the other.

Another option, also a relatively new concept, is in-town luxury living. Granite Cove, on the shores of Head Lake, sold quickly as a carefree alternative to detached home ownership, particularly to snowbirds who like the idea of being able to lock up and leave for months at a time. All of the condo apartments have balconies facing the lake and there's boat dockage out front. An added benefit is that most of the town of Haliburton is within walking distance, including shops, groceries and restaurants. While condos don't offer the space and privacy of cottages, the convenience factor has a lot going for it.

Both of these developments represent a new level of quality and ease when it comes to second home ownership, one

that's appreciated by newcomers who don't have the time or inclination to deal with cottage chores.

Quality Healthcare

The Highlands boasts two full-service hospitals, each with emergency services for residents and visitors. Because of the relatively small population, wait times are virtually unheard of, and surveys the hospitals conduct regularly report very high levels of satisfaction with the care provided. Each hospital is equipped with a helicopter pad for evacuating more serious cases to larger hospitals in Peterborough or Toronto.

For non-emergency healthcare, Haliburton Village has a full-service medical clinic with walk-in hours. You'll also have no trouble finding pharmacies, dentists, chiropractors, homecare and travel assistance, optometrists, and other healthcare providers.

Access to quality healthcare is a strategic priority for Haliburton County, a commitment especially appreciated by retirees, but valuable to anyone with concerns about accidents or a sudden illness. Says Paul Rosebush, President & CEO of HHHS, the hospitals' umbrella organization, "One of the reasons that visitors, cottagers, and seasonal residents keep coming back to Haliburton is because of the sense of security they get from knowing that high-quality emergency care is available in our area."

Sports, Recreation & the Arts

In summer, most activities revolve around the water — the Highlands has hundreds of lakes of all sizes and residents and visitors enjoy boating (canoeing, sailing, jet skiing, water skiing, kayaking) and swimming; off the water there

    				
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Haliburton Highlands

Real Estate Report



life in the Haliburton Highlands

are extensive hiking and nature trails, geocaching contests and mineral tours, and dozens of guided tours with themes ranging from rare species to fishing.

Winter brings downhill and cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and ice fishing. Curling is particularly popular with adults and is the hub of winter social activity with many friendly tournaments over the season. Families with kids looking to relocate full-time to the county will enjoy the strong sports, arts, and music programs of the local schools. Not surprisingly, hockey looms large for boys and girls in all age groups and the Highlands is lucky to have some of the strongest junior teams around.

In addition to sports and recreation, the Highlands hosts a vibrant arts community and has a full calendar of arts-related events. Artists will find the county a welcoming place; those wishing to learn can choose from dozens of courses at nearby Haliburton School of the Arts at Fleming College. Fleming has dozens of programs of various lengths and topics, covering the arts and many other disciplines.

Transportation

Depending on where you are in the county, Haliburton is between 2 and 3.5 hours from the GTA. It's important to consider the effect of a regular commute on how you enjoy your property. Some people can get a lot of work done in the car, or enjoy the drive, and can therefore make the most of more remote, less-developed areas; others want to keep the commute to a minimum.

What's important to remember, however, is that traffic generally moves well. While Muskoka is closer to the city in distance, the drive can often be delayed, particularly on



Haliburton Village is investing in a new streetscape to be finished in 2013. Drawing courtesy of Dysart et al.

weekends. In Haliburton, because there are several access routes and lower density, traffic slows only at peak times. If you're planning on coming and going mid-week, you're guaranteed a smooth journey.

Strong Communities


For retirees in particular, access to the dozens of groups, clubs, and non-profit organizations in the Highlands can be an important driver of quality of life. "People always come back to me and say the most pleasant surprise was the community itself," says Anthony vanLieshout of Royal LePage. "They don't look for that, but then they're surprised at how friendly people are, what community spirit they have... saying hello to friends and neighbours in town."

Friendly, and active. Traditional service clubs all have local branches, some more than one, offering social activities, business networking, and a chance to participate in community fundraising. Then there are the dozens of non-profits, all aiming to make the world a better place in different ways.

One of these is Canoe FM (100.9), a volunteer-run radio station in Haliburton Village. With over 30 on-air personalities, the station has original programming every day of the week and provides an opportunity for newcomers to both try new skills and integrate into the community. The topics are typically local; *Business with Beth* recently featured an in-depth interview with the new owner of the local laundromat.

Another popular organization is the Arts Council-Haliburton Highlands, a group which promotes the arts and the Highlands's many local artists in a variety of ways. If arts aren't your thing, there are groups of all sizes active in areas ranging from conservation and sustainable food production to affordable housing to providing support to seniors, youth, and others in need.


Perhaps the reason the Highlands attracts such a diverse range of people — cottagers with families, mobile executives, retirees, full-time residents — is because the region truly offers something for everyone. There's a sport, hobby, club, non-profit, landscape — you name it — to suit just about every taste, and friendly, active communities that deliver quality of life in a busy world. For those looking to escape the hectic, impersonal world of cities and suburbs, for a day or forever, the Highlands is worth checking out.








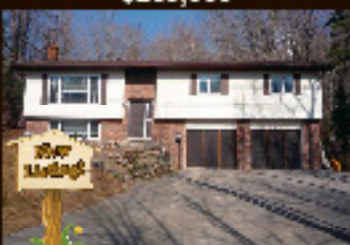




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<p>Minden Home \$244,900</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 BR; 2 bath; attached garage • Open concept design with fireplace • Large Yard; patio & Gazebo • Convenient In-town location 	<p>Private Country Home \$299,000</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautiful large 3 BR & 3 bath home • Spectacular 50 acre parcel with pond • High end finishes and many upgrades • Perfect for families or retirees. 	<p>Affordable Minden Home \$122,500</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perfect starter for family, seniors • Also a terrific income property. • Walk to all amenities including Riverwalk. • 4 bedrooms, 2 baths 	<p>Haliburton Home! \$240,000</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gorgeous home is nicely finished • 3 BR, huge backyard, propane & radiant heating • Sunroom, country kitchen & stone fireplace • Attached garage, walk to all amenities 	<p>Hunter Creek Beauty \$97,500</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 BR, large kitchen 1.5 baths • Terrific deck, lg garage & shop • New furnace; newer roof & FP • Great community close to Minden.
<p>Haliburton Lake Cottage \$524,900</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 BR cottage + 2 bunkies + 2 garage + loft • Stone fireplace; hardwood floors; • Double Lot with 183 feet of sand beach • South exposure; boathouse; very private 	<p>Lovely Haliburton Home \$259,000</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-town living, large lot and great privacy! • 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, large kitchen, • Family room with fireplace • Full finished basement with walk-out. 	<p>Haliburton Country Home \$269,000</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 BR, 3 Bath modern home • Close to Haliburton Village • Close to Kashagwigamog Access • Private Setting, great access! 	<p>Jim Beef Lake \$69,900</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great building lot, West Exp. • Just outside of Haliburton Village • Just under 1/2 an acre • Beautiful natural setting. 	<p>Paudash Lake Luxury \$725,000</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Season; 5 BR, 3 bath post & beam • 3800 sq ft of open concept living space • High-end finishings & Big Lake View • 235' frontage with Private lot & easy access

Haliburton Highlands Real Estate Report

The Cottage Executive Kit – As Easy as 1-2-3

You used to have to wait for retirement or that rare vacation to spend weeks at a time in cottage country. Not any more. For many, even those with high-powered careers, it's now possible to spend most of your time at the cottage, fishing over the lunch hour and holding your conference calls on the dock. But watch out for appearances — you don't want to create resentment or an "out of sight, out of mind" attitude at the office; perceptions are hard to change and the last thing you want to do is give the impression that you're slacking.

Here's what you'll need to enjoy working from your dock this summer:

1. The right mobile phone subscription. Rogers has a Canada One Rate plan which makes any call in Canada a local call. Clients and colleagues can dial your 416 number and it will ring on the lake; and, you won't incur long distance charges on the way to or from the cottage. Rates are about \$70 for 1,000 minutes. Make sure you always answer the phone professionally and away from noise created by kids, boats, and birds. Controlling your image is hard to do perfectly — once in a while, you'll find yourself doing business from the middle of the lake with a fish on the end of your line. Things could be worse.

2. A proper office. Set up a room in your cottage as an office, complete with fax machine, printer, and scanner to allow you to quickly and easily move documents back and forth. With video chatting becoming more common, always show up for your Skype call in professional attire — a tie isn't necessary, but a ratty fishing hat or hole-filled T-shirt is not going to inspire confidence; go with button downs and shaved-faces for men, crisp blouses and light make-up for women. And, make sure what people see behind you looks professional too — put the vintage snowshoes somewhere else; when you're in your office, you're "at the office".

3. Make regular appearances. Though the solitude may allow you to do even more work than normal and you are certain the commute is a waste, you're still missing that valuable "water cooler" time. There's just no avoiding getting left out of things when you're unseen, and though social media, mobile phones, and email can bridge most of the gap, they can't compensate entirely. Make sure you get to your real office, ideally every week for a day or two, to meet with key colleagues and clients.



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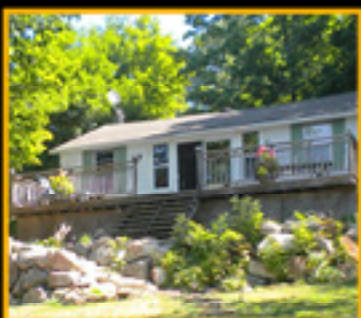
Little Redstone \$695,000

- .95 acres, YR RD, 225 ft sand beach
- 3 bdrm, fireplace, 70 ft deck
- Internet, garage, Turn key, priv, level



Kennisis Lk S-exp \$379,000

- Sheltered shoreline, level lot
- 3 bedrooms, 1-4pc-2 piece ensuite
- Fireplace - Year Round



Haliburton Lk \$315,900

- 3 Bdrm New Septic 2011, plumbing 2006
- New shingles, deck, wiring, insulation
- Ideal Renier, cozy, SW exposure



Kennisis Lk - West Shore \$429,000

- 335 ft ft, privacy, Driveway in
- 3.05 ac. Variety of shoreline
- Potential to have walking trails



Kennisis Lk - Million \$ view \$519,000

- 3 bdrm, 2 baths, fireplace
- Yr Rd, private, view, 5 exp
- Furnished, 3 decks, lg eat in kitchen



Kennisis Lk \$419,000

- Furnished 3 bdrm, den, laundry, lg deck
- Garage/small studio/Bunkie
- 161ft Majestic Point private lot, level



Red Pine Lk \$199,000

- Boat access, no phones, No visitors!
- Reno cabin, 2bdrm, propane, wood heat,
- Pine interior, sauna, Crown behind



Kennisis / Haliburton Forest \$249,000

- 6+ acres, Walking/hiking trails, priv,
- 5 mins to Kennis/Haliburton Forest
- 3 bdrms, 2 bath, lower W/O, very priv



Opportunity Kennis Lk \$297,000

- 3 season starter 14x20 insulated cabin
- Deep for boats/small area sand entry
- Handyman op to increase value, 5 exp



Little Kennis Surprise \$299,000

- 3 bdrm, cozy fully finished
- 720 sq ft, open concept, cathedral ceiling
- 10x30 deck, lg deck at water + dock

Highlander food

Syrup season turns sour

By Will Jones

Disastrous, catastrophic, the worst in living memory—this is how some of the county's most prominent maple syrup producers are describing the 2012 season.

Not since the 1940s has there been a year with such a strange transition in weather patterns from winter to spring. And this radical swing from cold to hot in a matter of days has played havoc with maple syrup production.

"The sap started to run really early and it's stopping again already," says Bill Beatty of Beatty's Sugar Bush, who taps around 420 trees. "The weather hasn't been kind to us. I tapped my trees in March during a blizzard while the trees were still frozen. The sap began to run on the 11th and it's all but stopped now, just days later."

The syrup season is always short, usually lasting around six weeks when the spring temperatures fluctuate between below-zero degrees Celsius at night and up to 10 degrees during the day. However, this year makers have struggled to draw off sap during sporadic runs in a season that went from cold to record-breaking high temperatures in a matter of days, with no drops below zero at night. The consequence is that the sap run has been poor and lasted a little less than two weeks.

Godfrey Tyler of Waverley Brook Farm estimates that he has only managed to produce about a fifth of the usual amount of syrup from his 500 trees. He gives a smile of resignation as he states that it is the worst year he can remember on the farm, which has been harvesting the sugar maples for 91 years.

"We've only managed to bottle about 20 percent of what we normally make," says Tyler. "The buds are out on the trees now, too, and on our last boil the steam smelled different so I think we're done for the year."



Left: Eric Thompson beside his syrup-finishing vat. Right: Bill Beatty checks a sample of sap. Photos by Will Jones



Similarly, Eric Thompson, of Maple Moon, believes that the end of the season is near. He explains how the syrup from his 1,800 taps is usually light in colour for a better part of the season, but this year boiled dark much sooner.

"Even the bigger producers down south, who use the latest technology, are getting dark syrup," he says. "I don't mind too much because I use it for making wine, but many folks who want to buy it for the table have a preference for the light and medium syrups."

This preference in taste and colour is something that has been influenced by the historic Canadian classification of light and medium syrups as #1, amber syrups as #2, and dark as for cooking use only, believes Beatty. And as such, he says this year's meagre harvest of predominantly amber and dark syrup is a kick in the teeth for producers.

"Maple sap is a crop and we're farmers. We depend upon the conditions being right to get the best harvest,

the best yield," says Beatty, "and this year the weather has really been against us. What little sap we have managed to collect is producing darker syrup; syrup that we have to classify as #2, when people have been led to believe they want #1."

Thompson, however, puts a more positive spin on the harvest of darker syrup.

"Studies show that maple syrup contains a variety of antioxidants and that it is better for you than regular cane sugar," he says, "and darker syrup is higher in those antioxidants, making it the best for you."

That said, Tyler, Beatty and Thompson, along with every other maple syrup producer in Ontario, Quebec, and much of the US northern states, have suffered greatly at the hands of the unusually warm weather that we've been experiencing.

"Maple syrup is a luxury," says Thompson, "and due to the low quantities available right across the board, pricing might be affected this year."

Tyler agrees. "In order to make a profit from the syrup we've made this year, we should be charging \$80 per litre. The thing is, we know we can't do that and we won't. We just have to chalk it down to a bad season and move on."

All three producers warn that they have not been able to make anywhere near the amount that they usually do, and that syrup, be it light, medium, amber, or dark, will be in short supply later in the year.

So, if you like syrup and want to make sure you don't run out, get out there and support your local producers. And buy the amber and dark syrup — it tastes great and is better for you, too!

Godfrey Tyler

Waverley Brook Farm

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Senior highlanders

Easter with the in-laws

Dear Penny,

The family will soon descend on us for Easter. We'll awaken to the sound of my son's baby crying and my daughter's three boys running up and down the hall while she tries to hush them all. Then there's the cooking. Just the thought of it is making me tired already. I don't want to be short tempered, but I'm afraid I might. How can I make it easy on myself this year?

Grumpy Grandma

Dear Grandma,

Your question sounds a lot like the ones I received before Christmas and my thoughts about Easter visits are much the same as they were then.

You are not alone. While having the family visit for Easter or any other holiday is supposed to be a wonderful family occasion, the fact is that many people find these annual visits very difficult. Expectations are high. Demands are great. Togetherness can be stressful and exhaustion sets in early.

It's a good idea to tell your kids that this year, you want to enjoy every moment you can with them and to be sure you're up for it, you are making some changes in your usual routine.

For starters, ask them to bring their own linens. Yes, they can make their beds when they arrive and take their soiled laundry home with them when they leave. Towels too.

Next, I suggest you divide the menu and the duties. If you know your daughter is up early, put her in charge of breakfast. Or if your son tends to the baby early, he can easily set the table and put out cereals. In fact, you might want to find a selection of single-serving dry cereals your son can put on the table with one hand while carrying a baby in the other. I'm serious.

Remember that the point of this visit is to visit – not for you to exhaust yourself to feed the starving masses. With a cereal selection, everyone gets their choice and nobody needs to stand at the stove to make it happen.

For dinner, pick one dish you would like to make yourself and suggest that one of your kids or their spouse prepares two favorite side dishes and brings them along. You can pick up a ready-made desert and snacks. It doesn't matter if you didn't make them. What matters most is that you are together and you're not too tired to enjoy the visit.

Assign the salad preparation to somebody who doesn't yet have a responsibility. To avoid a mess in the kitchen, tell them to prepare the salad at home and bring along a salad dressing they can add at the last minute.

Lunch can be a buffet of leftovers or deli meats with

two fresh loaves of bread from a local bakery and a store-bought pie or box of cookies. Yes, store-bought. You will be surprised at how good desert can taste when you don't have to make it yourself.

Don't forget to parcel out clean-up duties too. You might make a clean-up chart and ask everyone to pick a job. And remember, the clean-up does not have to be perfect. After everyone leaves, you can take as long as you like to finish anything that is not up to your usual standards.

The point is, you have to distribute the work – all of it – and take the time to take it easy. That means staying out of the kitchen and leaving the heavy lifting to the young folks.

I'm betting everyone will pitch in wonderfully well – if you prepare them for it now.

Good luck and happy Easter.

Readers, if you have any other questions—about your mobility, your comfort, or just about getting through your day more safely and easily, I want to hear them. For real-life answers you can use, write to penny@haliburtonhighlander.ca



By Penny Brown

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Echo Hills celebrates 20 years

By Douglas Pugh

The Echo Hills Legion Apartments celebrated 20 years since opening on Saturday, March 24. Organized by Ginny Carmichael along with Olive Smith, Carmen Webster, Carolen Clark, Pat Norman, and Lilian Haight, a great time was had by all. Those in attendance were treated with a sumptuous spread of food, including a celebratory cake. Three of the party goers – Ethel Lodge, Carmen Webster, and Diane Everall – have been there for all 20 years.

Photo above: Seated at foreground table, left to right: Marianna Debernitz, Anne McKay, Audrey Barclay, and Pat Norman. In the background: Sid and Eileen Arnold. Photo by Douglas Pugh.

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Junior highlanders

Heritage Ballet students return from Russia

By Douglas Pugh

It's midnight in Moscow. The January streets are dusted with light drifts of snow and more is falling on Red Square. Children clad in warm coats are outside performing dance moves and exercises. They are dancing for the pure joy of being in this place. These children have travelled from Haliburton, Ontario, Canada.

"It's an image that just stays in the mind. Something wonderful. Unique, even," says David Mills.

Mills, along with Julie Barban, owner and instructor of Haliburton Heritage Ballet, and three other adults, escorted eight students this past winter on a busy tour of Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Kostroma – home of the Russian National Dance Show. The group departed the Highlands on March 8 and returned on March 20.

Their itinerary included lessons with the Russian National Dance Show, visits to a hermitage and several cathedrals, as well as attending performances in an attempt to capture the fullest blend of ballet and folk dancing.

"The whole trip was based around exploring the history of dance," says Barban, "and to do that properly, you need to try and understand the culture, too."

Packing a four-stop flight plan each way to minimize cost, the 11-day trip was hectic.

Student Brooke Stevenson says, "We had no time to be tired ... until we got to JFK Airport in New York on the way back. Then, while we waited for our plane, it sort of caught up with us all at once."

"The people were so friendly and helpful while we were there. The Dance School at

Kostroma even sent their tour bus to pick us up. Kostroma was a bit of a shock, though. They described it as a small town. Three hundred thousand population! Then we told them that we came from a small town in Canada, a lot smaller town," says Barban.

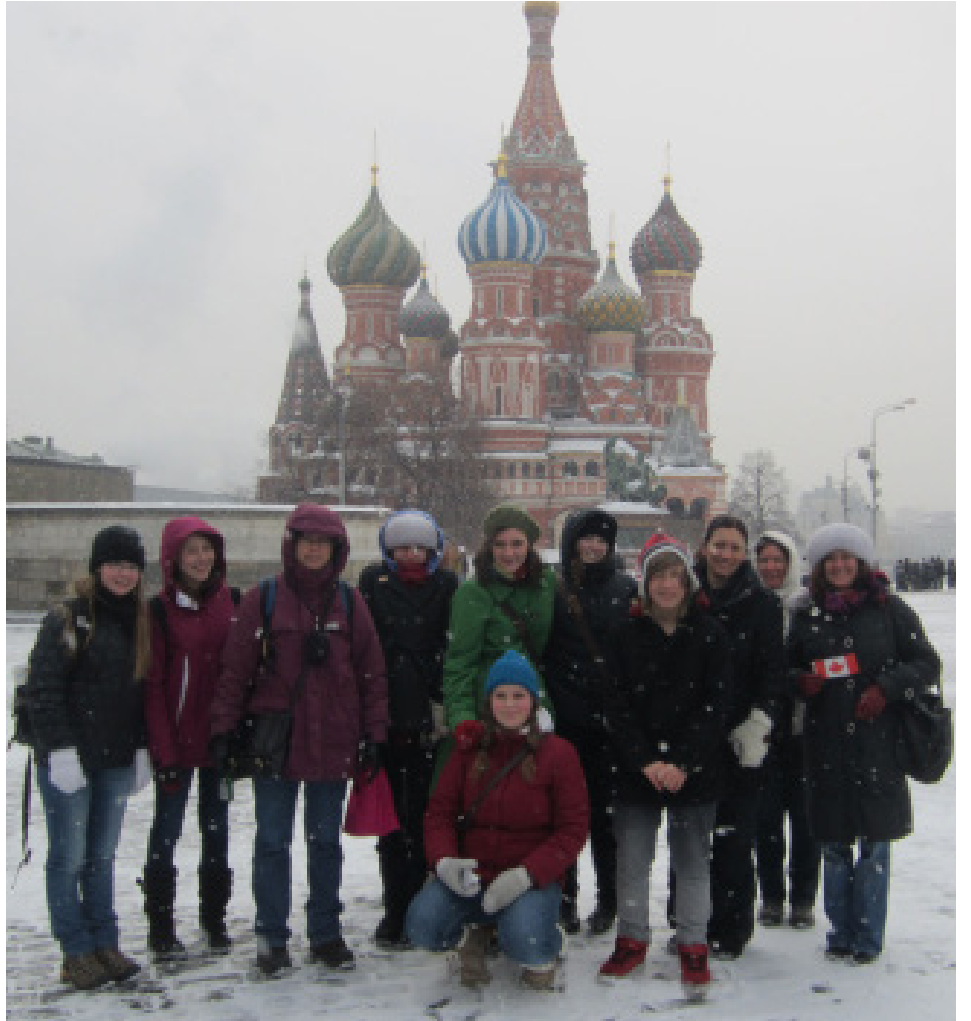
Though they weren't able to take in a show from the Kostroma Dance School, the Heritage Ballet students were privileged to be allowed into the auditorium to watch a full rehearsal of both the full-time dancers as well as the students.

"I couldn't believe how tough that is," says Stevenson. "Their kids not only study at school, but pack in 36 hours of dance practice too, every week." She blushes shyly as Julie mentions that the girls got to dance with the boys from the Kostroma School. "They really are amazing."

Julie's son, Julian Anderson, plays a video of the rehearsal and there is no denying the athleticism required to maintain the dancers' routines. Anderson's most memorable aspects of the trip were the rehearsals and food. He celebrated his 13th birthday during the trip and the Georgian restaurant they dined at laid on a full-blown, traditional Georgian spread for the party.

The trip was the culmination of two years of planning and fundraising. Would Barban undertake such an event again? It's complex and very hard work; there's the tireless efforts of volunteers, donors, contacts in far away places, and scheduling the whole itinerary.

"I saw how much the kids learned... dance, the enthusiasm, the culture. It's something that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. Maybe in a couple of years or so we'll think about Denmark, France, maybe London."



Most of the group standing in front of St. Basil's Cathedral, Red Square, Moscow. Left to Right: Rebecca Kidd, Brooke Stevenson, Rena Woodley, Loretta Kerr, Jessica Mooney, Kestrel Woodley, Julian Anderson, Julie Barban, Jennifer Kidd, Lisa Kerr, and Daryl Woodley (kneeling). Missing: David Mills and Kameron Anderson (photographers).



Rotary gives \$2,000 to Youth Unlimited

Photo by Stephen Patrick

The Haliburton Rotary Club has announced a grant of \$2,000 to the Haliburton Branch of Youth Unlimited to help with its three-week summer day camp. Jamie McMahon, director of Youth Unlimited, says the camp hopes to work again with Ski-Mazing Water Sports and Sir Sam's for mountain biking. From left: Rotarians Art Dawson, Andrew Hodgson, and Greg Phippen, Jamie McMahon, Rotarians Maureen O'Hara, Richard Van Nood, and Lance Edwards.



OEYC kids wait for a turn in the chair. Photo by Lisa Kerr.

Pre-schoolers visit the dentist's office

Submitted by Lisa Kerr

A group of enthusiastic pre-schoolers from the Ontario Early Years Centre in Minden had the chance to see a dentist's office and meet its staff.

During their Friday, March 23 visit to Dentistry in the Highlands, dentist Bill Kerr, hygienist Melanie Aldom, and dental assistants Cori Kelly and Dana Robertson showed the youngsters why they shouldn't fear a trip to the dentist. The pre-school aged children were given a tour of the office, rides in the dental chair, taught a song, and shown how to brush properly.

The visit also included a brief lesson on healthy and unhealthy foods (those with "sugar bugs"). Each child received a prize for participating.

The staff at Dentistry in the Highlands would like to thank the Ontario Early Years Centre for taking the time to bring the kids out for this educational experience.

Highlander sports

PardontheEruption

Dawson Hamilton remembered

By Terrance Gavan

We wonder if Matt Duchene's skyward glance in his rookie season – just before scoring the shootout goal that propelled the Colorado Avalanche into the 2010 playoffs – was noticed by anyone in that packed arena.

Probably not.

It was, after all, almost imperceptible; a short peek to the rafters; a negligible nod.

The short reverie was followed immediately by a narrowed gaze, a quick as slick two-step jump, and a disjointed drive to the net, where a warm body waited. In vain.

Paydirt and raucous celebration replaced any memory of that subtle flirt with heavenly inspiration.

Matt Duchene's glance can no longer be ignored. Like Babe Ruth's finger pointing beyond the fence; Broadway Joe Namath's bold guarantee of a Super Bowl win; and Ali's deft poetic dis' of Sonny Liston; Duchene's gilt-edged gaze skyward now lives, immortalized by an eloquent piece of high def imagery that was shown across the nation during a Hockey Night in Canada telecast last Saturday.

That shootout goal stamped Duchene's ticket to stardom and propelled the 18-year-old rookie into the upper echelon of NHL franchise players. The replay of that goal will now live forever as a testament to the short, brave life of Minden's Dawson Hamilton.

CBC's Inside Hockey put together a stunning four-minute video that encapsulated with grace and eloquence the collision of two souls. That snapshot also enlivened a community of Highlanders who got a chance to revisit the inclusiveness of a village.

We don't know how many trophies young Matthew Duchene

has collected over the years. We will assume that it is not more than, or even close to, 890.

That's a special number, because it's the number of bravery beads that Dawson Hamilton collected from the Ontario's Sick Kid's Hospital though his short and heroic life. The necklaces strung with bravery beads were amassed in a very tight span. He was diagnosed with leukemia at age five and he was buried in his favorite Colorado Avalanche jersey, signed by his good friend Matt, when he was 9, just 13 days before his tenth birthday.

Do the math. That's over 170 bravery beads per year. The beads are given for every significant medical procedure performed and for every holiday a child spends away from home in Sick Kids.

Dawson and Matt bonded while Duchene was still a member of the OHL's Brampton Battalion. Dawson became a fixture in the dressing room. An indelible friendship formed between Matt and Dawson and it continued through Matt's transition to the NHL.

You might surmise that young Dawson Hamilton got dealt a bad hand.

You'd be wrong.

Dawson Hamilton was loved; he had dreams; he had a special family, a brother, and he had many admirers. And Dawson Hamilton also had the unconditional love of a true friend.

Dawson Hamilton helped us realize that life is not offered on our terms. Dawson taught us to push on, and he helped us to remember that life is here to be tasted, not wasted in the wallow of a dreary daily drudge.

Dawson reminded us to be happy. Just that. Be happy.

Because Dawson was happy.

In spite of those seemingly insurmountable days and those

bravery beads. And those holidays spent in a cancer ward.

Matt Duchene explained in the video that when he turned his head to the rafters before that crucial shootout, he was asking his friend Dawson Hamilton for help.

Dawson Hamilton died on Jan. 10, 2010. Matt scored that goal in April.

Dawson's passing.

"I got a call from someone I know in Haliburton and she told me that she had visited Dawson's open casket," Duchene says. "She told me that he was wearing his Colorado Avalanche jersey."

Matt Duchene got his coach's permission to attend the funeral in Minden.

"You never really know how much of an impact you've had on someone's life until something like that happens," says Duchene. "The strength that you gain from knowing someone like that is something that's very intangible; and he had as big an impact on me as I had on him."

Today, Matt Duchene never plays a game without his buddy at his side.

"I have one of Dawson's initials on my stick," smiles Duchene. "It's like I have a little guardian angel with me."

Dawson's dad, Scott Hamilton says that Matt Duchene has helped him live with the loss.

"When I see Matt play hockey... I'm thinking of Dawson."

And now? So will we.



By Terrance Gavan

Bantam A's triumph in first MPS playoff, drop second game in last minute

By Stephen Patrick

The Floyd Hall Insurance Highland Storm Bantam A's won a come-from-behind thriller on Sunday, March 18, in their first Muskoka Parry Sound League semi-final versus the Bracebridge Bears. The final score: 5-4 in overtime.

The Bears took a two-goal lead in the first 10 minutes, although the Storm boys, perhaps a bit rusty after a two-week layoff, were skating hard. They were rewarded with just two minutes left in the period when Storm captain Curtis Ballantyne found the net, assisted by Blake Wood.

In the second, the Bears scored in the second minute to restore the two-goal lead, but five minutes later Joseph Patrick got it back, assisted by Brayden Roberts and Connor Gadway to make it 3-2. The Bears scored again with three minutes to go, but once again the Storm fought back with a dandy from Ballantyne, assisted by Devon Upton and Patrick.

In the third period, with Storm goalie Logan Churko standing tall, the Storm was not to be denied. Four minutes into the

tense action, Upton scored, assisted by Ballantyne, forcing the game into overtime.

The Storm came out flying and in the first minute Ballantyne ended the proceedings, completing his hat trick with a beauty, assisted by Patrick and Upton.

In Bracebridge last Thursday, the narrative was similar, but the outcome wasn't. The irony was that neither squad was playing a particularly chippy brand of hockey, but the refs decided the game was going to be about them, and handed out 30 - count 'em, 30 - penalties: 17 to the Storm and 13 to the Bears.

The Bears scored in the first minute of play, and by the halfway point in the first period had a commanding 4-0 lead. The Storm looked disorganized, and a little disheartened, but as the refs piled on the penalties (we were down three boys at one point in the first). The team responded with a truly gritty display of heart. By the end of the period, the team had come back to make it a 4-3 game. The scorers were Ballantyne from Upton and Owen Flood; Blake Wood from Connor Gadway

and Noah Dollo; and Nick Thompson from Ballantyne and Upton.

In the second period, the Storm completed the comeback with a goal by Upton, assisted by Flood. The penalty parade continued, with the Bears taking a number of consecutive punishments. The coaches for both teams could only shake their heads as, at one point, the referees seemed to be apologizing to both benches for their over-the-top, marginal calls.

In the third period, the Bears took the lead just two minutes in, but the Storm tied it again at five apiece on a goal by Brayden Roberts, assisted by Gadway and Tyler Casey. The refs finally put their whistles away and the last half of the period saw some great action by both teams, and another overtime seemed inevitable. But with just 30 seconds to go, the Bears found the net, and skated away with a 6-5 victory. The teams meet tonight in Bracebridge to decide the championship. And with any luck, the boys, not the stripes, will be the story in this one.

Bantam AE team fall to Tavistock Titans

Submitted by Doug Sullivan

The Highland Storm Bantam AE team, sponsored by Dave's Landscaping and McKee Security, began their OMHA final series verses the Tavistock Titans this past weekend. They played the opener Friday night before a packed house in Tavistock.

It was apparent that the Storm would be in tough competition, as the Titans held an immense edge in size and speed. It was the Storm, however, who struck first as Jaydon Wood was sent away on a two-on-one break with a nice pass from Ryan Edwards. Wood's shot found the back of the net to give the Storm the early lead. The Titans responded quickly, however, with two goals in the next two minutes and finished the period 2-1.

The home team scored two more in the second before Hunter Bishop was sent in alone with a feed from Wood. His goal brought the Storm back to within two at the end of the frame.

The third period was a back and forth affair and it looked bleak for the Haliburton boys until Brenden McKee scored with assists from Bishop and Wood to close the deficit to one with 3:53 left. However, the miracle finish was not to be as the Titans scored two more times to cement the victory, 6-3.

On Saturday, the boys looked to turn the series around, however it was Tavistock who got off the mark early and often. They were up by four goals halfway through the second before the Storm could get on the board. Bishop scored from a sharp angle with Angus

Sullivan drawing the assist. Unfortunately, Bishop was ejected from the game 20 seconds later on a questionable hitting-from-behind call as the opposing player turned his back just before the contact. It was especially harsh because it meant that Bishop would also miss the next game. Tavistock scored once more before the end of the period and went into the intermission up 5-1.

Wood scored twice in the third with assists going to Ryan Edwards and Caleb Schmidt, but the Titans matched those two goals with two of their own and won 7-3.

Game three in Haliburton was do-or-die time for the Storm. With team captain and leader Bishop suspended, they were happy to welcome back Damen Winder from the injury list and called up Maddy Allore. Once

again, it was Tavistock who were fastest off the mark. They scored two in the first and two in the second before the Storm could reply. Goals by Josh Rowden and Wood closed the gap going into the third. Kyle Lavergne assisted on both goals while Wood and Edwards each got one assist.

Tavistock scored the only goal of the third and wrapped up the series and OMHA championship with a 5-2 victory.

Congratulations to the Titans for a well-deserved victory and a well-played series, and also to the Storm who never quit and never stopped trying. The saga, however, does not end here as the Bantams now face Parry Sound for the MPS AE championship.

Highlander sports

Storm Peewee A's Muskoka Parry Sound division champions

Submitted by Karena Crofts

Dr. Ed Smolen Family Dentistry's Peewee A's waited a while to continue the playoff series for the MPS Division Championship. Having defeated Huntsville, they were to face Parry Sound in the final best two out of three games for the championship.

The first game was scheduled for the evening of Friday, March 23 in Humphrey, near Parry Sound. The Highland Storm Peewee A's were four players short for the first game, but most of the players have experienced playing with a short bench over the last few seasons.

It was an exciting, fast paced game with the Storm outskating and outplaying the Shamrocks. The Storm scored first with a goal by Chase Burden, assisted by Chris Thompson in the first period. The Shamrocks tied it up and then got a one-goal lead only to have it tied by an unassisted goal by Greg Crofts. The game remained tied to the end of the third period, despite efforts by both teams to get the winning goal, forcing the game into a five-minute overtime of four-on-four.

The Storm boys continued their efforts, despite the short bench and the overtime period; and a short time into overtime, Matt Wilbee took the puck and put it into the Shamrocks' net for the 3-2 win. The two teams next played on Saturday, March 24 in Haliburton and the Storm were lucky enough to be only three players short for this game.

From the drop of the puck in the first period, they showed their stuff by getting six goals in the first period. Wilbee, assisted by Burden

and Max MacNaull; Ethan Keefer assisted by Crofts and Kyle Cooper; Keefer assisted by Cooper; Cooper unassisted; Mark Saville assisted by MacNaull, and for his hat trick, Keefer again assisted by Crofts.

The second period saw less scoring. Parry Sound managed one goal, only to have Wilbee match, it assisted by Burden and Keefer. At the top of the third period, The Storm was well ahead, but Parry Sound came out and managed to score two more goals at the beginning of the third, once again to have them matched by Wilbee (2) assisted by Keefer, MacNaull and Thompson. This gave Wilbee a hat trick plus one; try as he might he was unable to get another goal and finished the season with 69 goals to his credit.

Parry Sound managed one more goal, but the win went to the Storm with a 9-4 final, making the Highland Storm Peewee A's the Muskoka Parry Sound Division Champions.

I would also like to mention our two goalies who played a great game, Parker Smolen and Ryan Hannah, and forwards Devyn Prentice and Josh Boice. Thanks to our missing players, whose efforts through the season helped to get the team to this win: Jake Bull, Andrew Hall and Jake Bishop. We would also like to thank the boys for a great season of hockey, the bench for their time and effort, the officials (as we rarely take time to say it) and of course the fans, newspapers and radio for their support and coverage.

See you next season!



First row: Max MacNaull, Josh Boice, Chase Burden
Middle: Ryan Hannah, Devyn Prentice, Matt Wilbee, Parker Smolen
Standing: Chris Thompson, Ethan Keefer, Kyle Cooper, Greg Crofts, Mark Saville
Missing: Andrew Hall, Jake Bull and Jake Bishop. Photo by Karena Crofts.

Tough start for Highland Storm Peewee AE team

Submitted by Suzanne Haedicke

The finals began on Friday, March 23, when the Storm Peewee AE team travelled to meet the Ayr Flames. You could see and feel the excitement and energy radiating from both teams.

The Storm played two games against the Ayr Flames, and perhaps it was the home ice advantage that gave the Flames a 2-0 start in the final series. The Storm team started out strong and seemed to be outplaying the Flames, but could not get enough shots on the net to score. Although the Storm worked hard, the Flames got the first goal, deflating the Storm and later followed it up with another, ending the first game 2-0.

The series continued the next day. It was a great start for the Storm; they played extremely well, demonstrating awesome passes and an all-out effort that resulted in getting on the score board late in the first period, making it 1-0 for the Storm. The goal was scored by Alex Wilbee and assisted by Carter O'Neill and Trevor Turner. The Flames immediately answered back with a goal seconds into the second period. It was tight, back and forth hockey; the second period ended, still tied at 1-1. The third period has usually been the best for this Peewee AE team, however, the odds were not in their favor and the Flames took the lead late in the third period, making it 2-1.

The short-handed Storm were down by one with less than a minute to play. The Flames went on to seal the win with an empty net goal, and quickly followed it up with another to end the game 4-1.

Catch all the excitement and come cheer on the team at games in Haliburton on Friday, March 30, at 8:30 pm and Saturday, March 31, at 1:30 pm.

The Highland Storm Peewee AE team is proudly sponsored by Tom Prentice Trucking.

Tell us about your sports
events – email
gav@haliburtonhighlander.ca

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PREPARATION at the Haliburton Legion starting Tuesday, Feb 21 from 9 am to 2 pm; last day is April 23. At the Wilberforce Legion, starting Feb 22 from 2 pm to 3:30 pm, last day is April 25. Open to everyone. (A25)

Thank you...

I want to thank everyone who helped me get through an extremely difficult time, from the bottom of my heart. Thank you to the Haliburton, Funeral Home, the doctors, and the nurses in Haliburton, and Peterborough, too all my Haliburton friends, community care, and wonderful relatives in Belleville, New Market, and Toronto.

You're all the greatest. I'm on the mend.

With love Ed Wright

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www.patientnews.ca

EVENTS

MINDEN & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 3 AT 1 PM

at the

MINDEN COMMUNITY CENTRE
PARK STREET, MINDEN

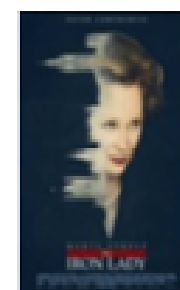
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THOSE OTHER MOVIES

Thursday, April 12/12:
THE IRON LADY

Meryl Streep delivers an Oscar winning performance portraying one of the 20th century's most famous and influential women, former Prime Minister of Great Britain Margaret Thatcher in **THE IRON LADY**
Rated PG – 105 min

Coming next....

Thursday, May 10/12: MY WEEK WITH MARILYN
Thursday, June 14/12: THE ARTIST (To be confirmed)

Saturday, May 5/12: Doc(k) Day – documentary film festival
2 shows – 4:15 & 7:15 - Tickets \$8.00 at the door Northern Lights Pavilion, Haliburton High School More info: www.haliburton-movies.com

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Highlander events

Puzzles will return next week

March - April 2012

IN MEMORY

In loving memory of Ralph Allison who passed away April 4th, 2010. Ralph was the loving husband and dear friend of his wife Shirley, a great and thoughtful father to Charlie, Clinton, Jess, and Tyna and the best Poppa ever to Jacob, Katie, Brenna, and Jorja. Two years have passed since you have been gone, but with memories and laughter you will always live on. You will always be loved and missed so very much by all of us.



Love always to our brightest star.

In Memoriam for
Emily Jean Gould Casey
on her Birthday March 31st
Love Nedeau

MOTHER AND I

We are connected, my mother and I,
By an invisible cord not seen by the eye.

It's like the cord, that connect us till birth,
This cord can't be seen by any on earth.

This cord does its work right from the start,
It binds us together attached to my heart.

I know that it's there, though no one can see,
It can't be destroyed, it can't be denied.

It's stronger than any cord man could create,
It stands the test - can hold any weight.

And although you are gone,
Though you're not here with me,
The cord is still there but no one can see.

It pulls at my heart, I am bruised, I am sore,
But this cord is my lifeline as never before.

I am thankful that GOD connects us this way,
A Mother and Child death can't take away.

MARCH 29 TO APRIL 4

NOTICES:

- SIRCH Hike for Hospice is taking place on April 28! Collect pledges individually or in a team and meet at HHSS at 10:15 am to register. 100% of funds raised stay in our community.
- COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE, SG Nesbitt Arena, Minden, April 15, 1 pm to 5 pm
- GOOD FRIDAY CANTATA! The combined choirs of Zion & Haliburton United Churches, under the direction of Melissa A. Stephens, present *The Rose of Calvary* by Joseph Martin, April 6, Carnarvon - 9 am, Haliburton - 11:15 am

Thursday - 29

- Play Group, Point in Time (currently until April 30), Cardiff Elementary School, 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm, Dawn Hurd, 705-457-5345, X311
- Cardiff Kinder Group, Point in Time (currently until April 30), Cardiff Elementary School, 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm, Dawn Hurd, (705) 457-5345, X311
- FREE Public Skating - Dysart Arena, Haliburton, 12 noon to 1:30 pm, Ray 705-457-2083, rmiscio@dysartatca.ca
- Bid Euchre, Minden Community

Centre, 1 pm to 4 pm, Bev, 705-286-3085

- Bid Euchre, Community Care, Haliburton, 1 pm, for seniors 55+ or physically disabled adults 18+, Ida 705-457-2941

Friday - 30

- Cribbage, Community Care, Haliburton, 1pm, for seniors 55+ or physically disabled adults 18+, Ida 705-457-2941

Saturday - 31

- Easter Bake & Craft Sale, Gooderham United Church, 10 am to 3 pm, soup, sandwiches, deserts available

APRIL

Monday - 2

- Parent Child Mother Goose, Haliburton Ontario Early Years Centre (ending Monday, April 30), 10 am to 11 am, register with OEYC at 705-286-4625 or 705-457-2989, offered in partnership with Point in Time
- Haliburton County Table Tennis Club, 6 pm to 9 pm, St. George's Church, 617 Mountain Street, Haliburton, Mary or Jeff Martin, 705-457-2260
- Celebrate Recovery, Lakeside Baptist

Email louise@haliburtonhighlander to have your local event advertised.

Church, 7 pm to 10 pm, admin@lakesidebaptist.ca

- Contract Bridge, Community Care, Haliburton, 1 pm, 705-457-2941

Tuesday - 3

- Dental Screenings for children, Haliburton Early Years Centre, offered by the HKPR Dental Department, 10 am to 12 noon, sign up by March 29, 705-457-2989
- Pickleball, Minden Community Centre, 9 am to 12 noon, Doug, 705-489-3850
- Yoga at the library, Howard Roberts Room, 4 pm to 5 pm, admission by donation
- Euchre Night, West Guilford Recreation Centre, 7 pm to 10 pm, 705-754-1457, carolstamp@sympatico.ca
- Wii, Community Care Drop in centre, 9:30 am - 12 noon, 705-457-2941

Wednesday - 4

- Pickleball, Minden Community Centre, 9 am to 12 noon, equipment supplied, bring clean court/running shoes, contact Doug, 705-489-3850
- Community Drumming/Rhythm Circle, Rails End Gallery, 7:30 pm to 9 pm, 705-457-2330

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LOCAL LEGION?

HALIBURTON Branch 129 705-457-2571

- Wednesdays - 7 pm, Bingo

MINDEN Branch 636 - 705-286-4541, rolbranch636@hotmail.com

- Mondays - 7:30 pm, Cribbage Night
- Wednesdays - lunch time Meat Draw
- Thursdays - 7:30 pm, Euchre
- Fridays - 5 pm to 7 pm, Fish & Chips Dinner

WILBERFORCE Branch 624 - 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com

- Saturday, March 31 - 2 pm, Meat Draw
- Tuesday, April 3 - 7 pm, Executive Meeting
- Friday, April 6 - 5-7 pm, Ham & Scalloped Potato Dinner
- Mondays - 7 pm, Bid Euchre
- Wednesdays - 7:30 pm, Darts
- Fridays - 1:30 pm, Pool; 7 pm, Jam Session
- Sundays - 1-6 pm Free Pool, Retro Drink Prices

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Highlander life



The show goes on

The Molou keeps the old 'face', but gets a new outlook.

By Douglas Pugh

Anyone walking down Highland Street in the last week or so can't have helped but notice the buzz of activity around one of Haliburton's landmarks, The Molou. The seats have been all ripped out, dust hangs in the air and workmen are busy in the empty shell of the old movie theatre.

The ticket booth and the popcorn machine are still there in the foyer, though for now they wear a coat of dust and the counter tops hold a little debris and the workmen's toolboxes.

The Molou has been unused for nearly two years now; 69 years of cinematic history closed when the university students – who had run it the last season as volunteers – moved on to things like careers.

This is not a case though of an unfeeling demolition and renovation. The Molou will live on, in a way. The foyer will be retained, the frontage, the lit sign over Highland Street;

a kind of mini-museum to what it was, while inside there will be two commercial units, one fronting onto Highland via the foyer, the other having access to Maple through the old movie theatre exit.

"The family have worked together through this change," said owner Allan Consky. "My mother was up two weeks ago as we finalized everything. Molly is still an integral part of our decisions. She was part of The Molou, showing movies in town for 69 years."

The Molou, named after a combination of Molly and her late husband Lou's names, has been unused since 2010.

"It's a shame seeing an icon like the movie theatre go, but a fresh look, some new vibrancy on Highland Street has to be a good thing," said Janet Sheehy, owner of next door business JanKnit's Studio. "I'm looking forward to it. I think it's great that they are retaining just a little bit of the theatre, too."

The Molou then changes, leaving some history in the centre of Haliburton, but taking a deep breath and stepping forward with hope for a bright new future. There is already a prospective occupant lined up for the front unit with the ambition of opening in May.

As of press time, it is unknown who or what type of a business will occupy the building.

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The late Lou Consky was the friendly face behind the counter at Haliburton's Molou Theatre for decades. Photos submitted by Lisa Robertson.



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Highlander life

A dog's life for Hank DeBruin

Haliburton's Iditarod hero is back at home in the dog house

By Terrance Gavan

We walked out to the kennels from the house on Drag Lake with Hank DeBruin on Tuesday afternoon.

DeBruin was tired and he had a headache. Not surprising. He and his brother in law, dog wrangler and "Road's Scholar" Ward McCready, arrived home just the day before, on Monday, after a grueling 5,000 kilometer trip from Anchorage, Alaska to the Haliburton Highlands.

Five days on the road with 18 dogs and two sleds on board is not fun.

On March 17, Hank and 10 Winterdance dogs – from an original team of 16 – pranced across the Iditarod finish line just in time to disrupt Nome's St Patrick's Day parade.

"A woman came running up to us and said, 'You made our parade,'" says Hank's wife, Tanya McCready. She was at the finish line with the kids, Jessica, Michaela, Dustyn and Logan, and her brother Ward, when Hank arrived.

After 13 days on the Iditarod trail, Hank and Ward then had to deal with the press, the Musher's Banquet on Sunday, and then two days in Nome awaiting a plane ride out.

"That was a long wait in Nome," smiles DeBruin, as we stroll through the kennels that house the 150 Siberian Huskies which do all of the real work for Hank and Tanya's thriving Winterdance Dog Sled Tours.

"I was just about ready to grab the dogs and the sled and head back to Anchorage myself," smiles DeBruin. There are no roads into Nome, Alaska. And no escape while hundreds of dogs wait for air transport out of the secluded Alaskan outpost.

DeBruin is now a bearded Iditarod veteran. He finished the run this year and fulfilled a twenty-plus year dream on March 17. He and his team were culled from the Iditarod in the 2010 event. This year there was never a doubt that he and his young team of Siberians would be crossing the line.

"When did I know that we'd finish?" asks Hank, pondering a question. "We knew before we got there. We trained different this year from 2010. We planned for an 11 day race. Before we left we knew that the dogs were ready."

Plus they had some extra momentum this year.

Last year DeBruin and his lovely pack of howling Siberian huskies completed the world's toughest dog sled race, the Yukon Quest. The Iditarod finish put an exclamation mark on Hank's competitive mushing career.

He says everything went well this time around. In fact, they were on a pace to set a purebred record for the race during the first week.

"It was really warm for the first five days and then it got cold," says DeBruin. The eleven-day dream went up in a puff of Bering Sea snow squall during that second week where temperatures dipped to -30 [degrees Celsius] with unbelievable winds.

"We got into that strong north headwind and we don't get that around Haliburton, so you really can't train for it," says Hank. The dogs also aren't used to the wide-open stretches of sea ice with no trees to act as touchstones.

"It takes an awful lot to keep young dogs heading into a 30 to 35 mph headwind when it's -30 or -35 degrees," says Hank. "Their noses start to freeze and with no trees, they lose their bearings."

At those times, Hank just tries to find shelter, but the problem is, on the straits, shelter is hard to find. "The dogs aren't used to it and it's pretty hard to convince them to go on. They put their heads down and you have to convince them then not to turn around."

At one point, Hank was steering the team toward a rest house on the trail. "I was ready to bring the dogs in and they were ready to take a rest." But then, says Hank, as they approached the cabin, the team saw a wolverine emerge. "Once that happened the chase was on. They forgot all about the cabin and we must have chased that wolverine for a mile. I was worried for a while, because it looked like they were going to catch up with him. We almost had him, and that was scary. A wolverine will mess up a dog pretty bad."

Dreams of that record run disappeared into the howling maw of the storm. "We were right on track for a record run," smiles Hank. But he's not that invested in records. The finish is the thing.

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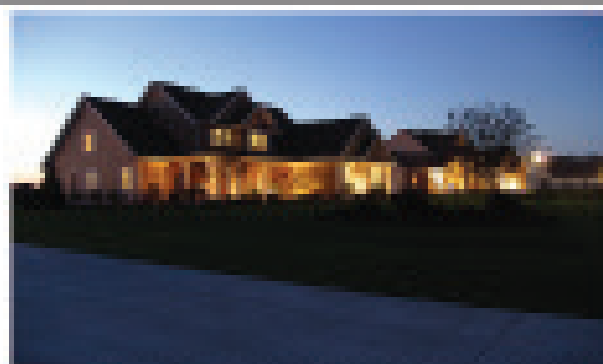
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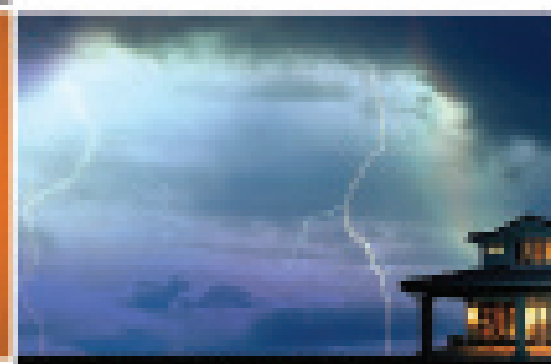
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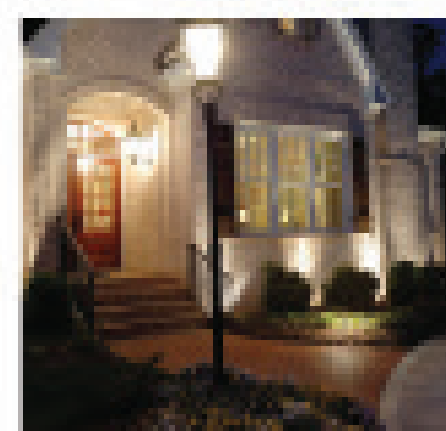
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